先輩にノックを打ってもらってた時、
自分のあまりのヘタさに情けなくて泣いてしまった……。
「どうした、大丈夫か!?」
「……カっくんですよ」
「!!……な・なんやコラ・俺のノックが気に入らんのかぁ!?(激怒)」
「あ……いや…自分のことが……」
「やめや、やめや、やってられるか!!」
……その後、二度とノックは打ってもらえなくなったという……。

寺嶋裕二

Yuu Terajima Presents
Ace of Diamond
ダイヤのA エース
8
Shonen Magazine Comics
寺嶋裕二

KCM3913
KC MAGAZINE
ダイヤのA エース
8
寺嶋裕二
講談社

Ace of Diamond

合宿最終日の練習試合。
エースとして覚醒しつつあった丹波を魔の一球が襲う!!
丹波が戦線離脱を余儀なくされ、チームに走る動揺。
緊急事態で1年の沢村の双肩にも重圧がかかり…
青道、エース不在の危機――。それでも夏は待ってくれない!
この苦難をチーム一丸となって乗り切ることができるのか!?
いよいよ、甲子園予選開幕!!

てらじまゆうじ
寺嶋裕二

8

第58話／緊急事態・・・3

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●週刊少年マガジン2007年第33号～第42号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

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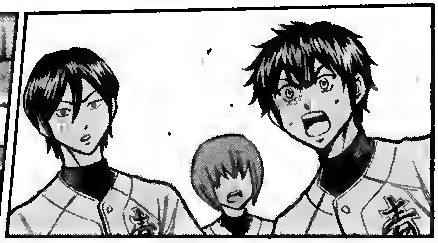
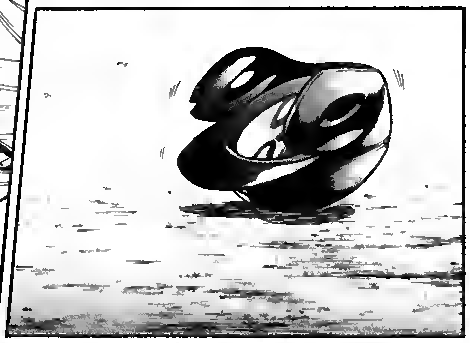
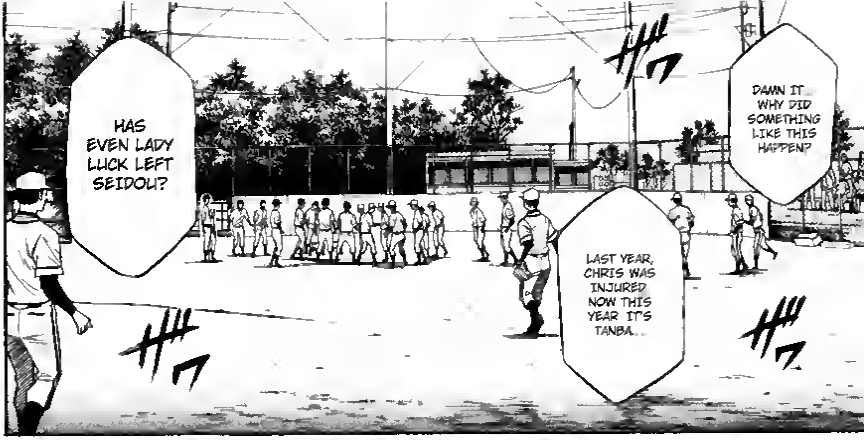
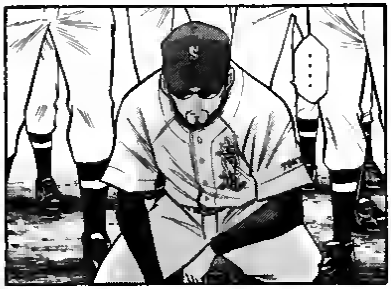




CHAPTER 58/ A SUDDEN

INASHIRO
INASHIRO
JUST WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SWING, THE BALL HIT HIS FACE.
SEEING HOW HE FELL JUST NOW IT'S PROBABLY PRETTY BAD...
...
HEY... THAT PITCH JUST NOW HIT HIM DIRECTLY IN THE FACE, RIGHT?
GET THE STRETCH-ER OVER HERE!
I'M F...FINE
DON'T MOVE! STOP MOVING!
OOTA-BUCHOU! GET THE CAR HERE QUICKLY
G-... GOT IT!
HEY! TANBA! DON'T MOVE!


HAS EVEN LADY LUCK LEFT SEIDOU?
LAST YEAR, CHRIS WAS INJURED NOW THIS YEAR IT'S TANBA...
DAMN IT... WHY DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN?


...

IN THIS KIND OF CRITICAL MOMENT, OUR PITCHER INJURED YOUR PLAYER..
WE... WE ARE REALLY SORRY!

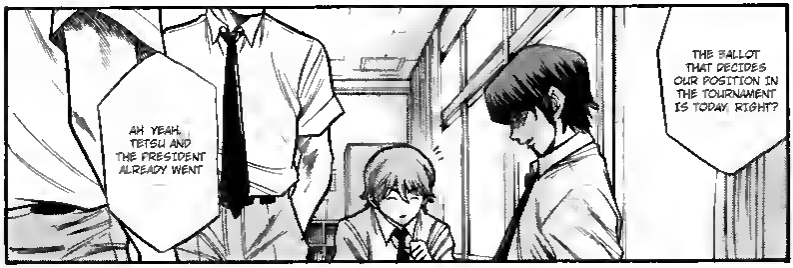
I AM AFRAID WE CANNOT CONTINUE WITH THIS MATCH.

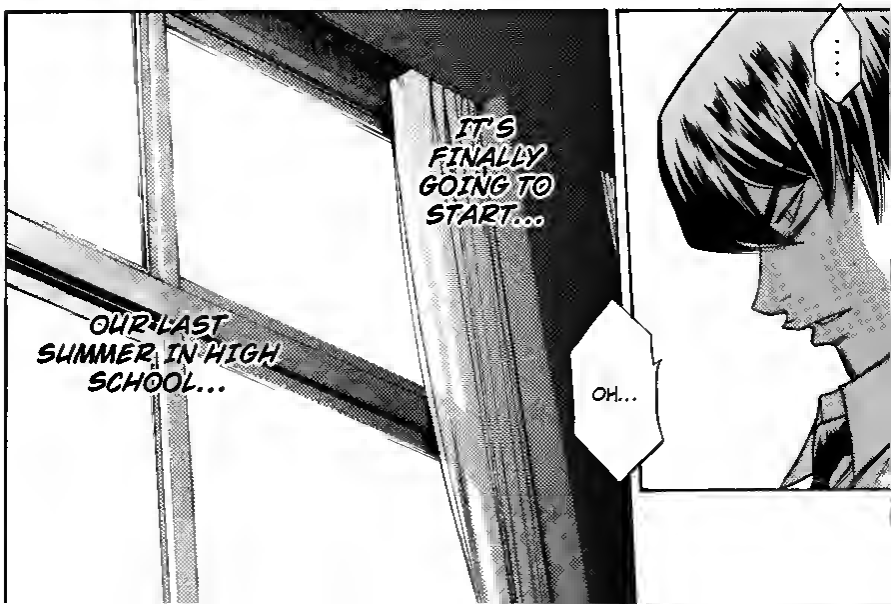
THESE THINGS HAPPEN IN MATCHES
WE CAN'T BLAME IT ON YOUR PITCHER

YES! WE FULLY UNDERSTAND!
WE ARE VERY SORRY YOU TRAVELLED ALL THE WAY HERE FOR THIS KIND OF THING TO HAPPEN...
MM... IT'S TIME TO GO...
YE...YES!
THEY'RE SO PITIFUL...
AND I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE FURUYA'S PITCHING IN THE END EITHER...
TANBA...
AT THIS KIND OF CRITICAL MOMENT BEFORE THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT...
THIS SUDDEN SITUATION WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE THE TEAM'S SPIRIT TO WAVER...

KATAOKA...
IT'S REALLY A PITY...
STILL... WE WOULD STILL LIKE TO COMPETE FOR THE ENTRY TICKET TO KOUSHIEN AGAINST A FULL STRENGTH SEIDOU

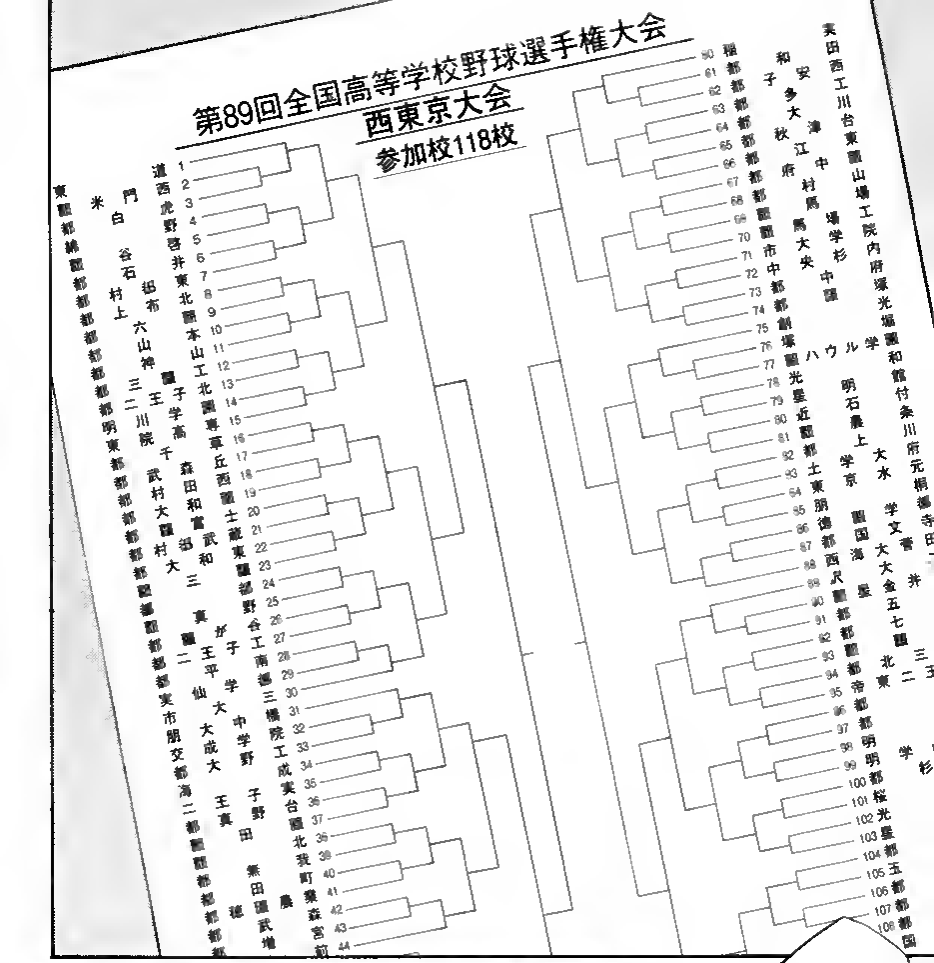
3-B
YEAH YEAH
HARUNOBU PROBABLY COULDN'T RELAX ANY-MORE AFTER THAT RIGHT?
THAT WAS LATER KNOWN AS THE TIGER THAT COULD COMPETE WITH A DRAGON.
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW HE GETS ALONG WITH KANSUKE.

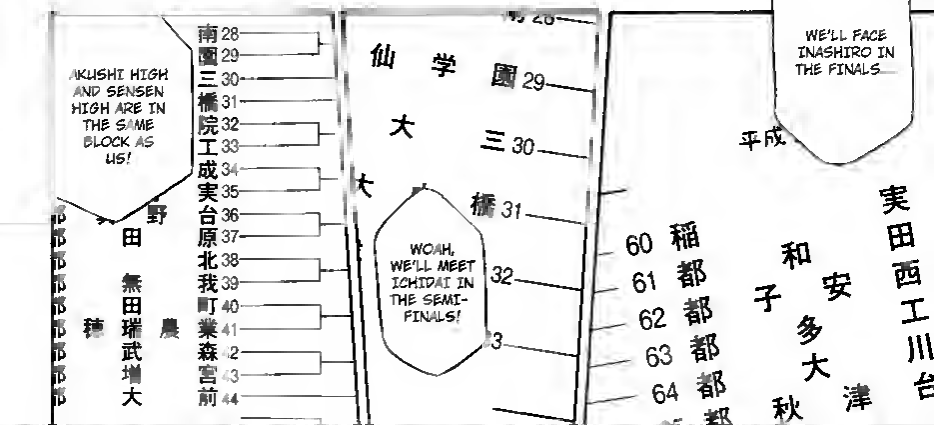

THE BALLOT THAT DECIDES OUR POSITION IN THE TOURNAMENT IS TODAY, RIGHT?
AH YEAH, TETSU AND THE PRESIDENT ALREADY WENT


OUR LAST SUMMER IN HIGH SCHOOL...
IT'S FINALLY GOING TO START...
OH...
...

THE INFLUENCE HE HAS OVER THE PLAYERS IS MORE THAN WE EXPECTED
IF WE DON'T CHANGE THE MENTALITY OF THE PLAYERS SOON, I FEAR THAT IT'LL BE TOO LATE ..
職員室
I THINK PLAYERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY HEARD ABOUT TANBA'S SITUATION...
.....
COACH.. WE'RE BACK
ガラッ
THE PLACEMENTS FOR THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT HAVE BEEN DECIDED.

本日休み
人時


第89回全国高等学校野球選手権大会
西東京大会
参加校118校


AKUSHI HIGH AND SENSEN HIGH ARE IN THE SAME BLOCK AS US!
WOAH, WE'LL MEET ICHIDAI IN THE SEMI-FINALS!
WE'LL FACE INASHIRO IN THE FINALS

THERE PROBABLY ARE STRONGER GROUPS THAN OURS AROUND THE COUNTRY
THIS IS ACTUALLY QUITE A RELAXED GROUPING SINCE TOKYO IS SPLIT INTO THE EAST TOKYO REGION AND THE WEST TOKYO REGION
WOAH! THERE'S SO MANY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING!
WE ARE A SEEDED TEAM, SO WE HAVE 5 MATCHES BEFORE THE FINALS...
1 2...
THE SENIORS ARE THEY ALRIGHT?
THEY SEEM PRETTY DOWN SINCE YESTERDAY
AND AT SUCH A CRITICAL MOMENT WHEN THE TEAM NEEDS TO BE SPIRITED TOO...
I BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS HEARD ABOUT IT...
SEEING THEIR COMRADE, WHO HAS BEEN FIGHTING WITH THEM FOR THREE YEARS, GET A SERIOUS INJURY YESTERDAY WAS PROBABLY A HUGE BLOW TO THEM.

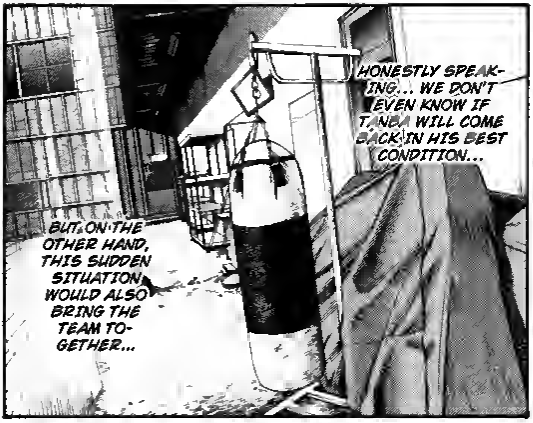
YESTERDAY'S DEAD BALL HAS CAUSED A CRACK IN TANBA'S JAW..
LUCKILY, THERE WAS NO BONE FRACTURE.
AND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN TOO.

STILL, TANBA MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PRELIMINARIES.

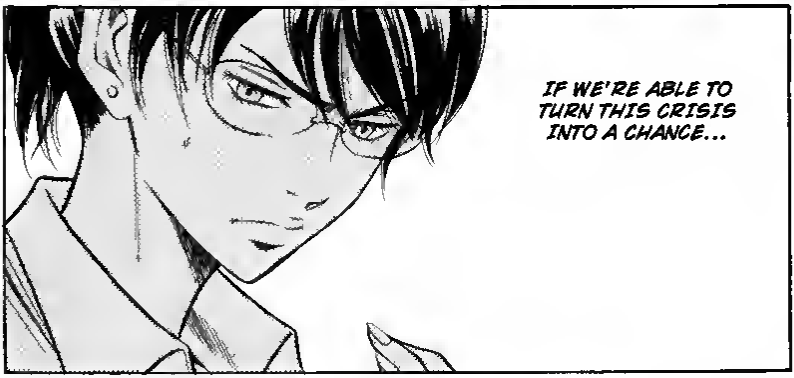
TO BE HONEST, I FEEL HESITANT ABOUT THIS.
HE FINALLY BECAME CONSCIOUS OF THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE ACE. HE HIMSELF IS PROBABLY FEELING FRUSTRATED RIGHT NOW.
.....
THIS DECISION WAS MADE AS THE COACH OF THE TEAM,
AND DEFINITELY NOT AS A LONE INDIVIDUAL.

I INTEND TO GIVE TANBA THE POSITION OF THE ACE!
BEFORE HE COMES BACK, I HOPE EVERY-ONE WILL FIGHT TOGETHER AS A UNITED TEAM!
FURUYA.
AND SAWAMURA!
DURING THIS PERIOD, KAWAKAMI

I HOPE THAT EVERY-ONE WILL DO YOUR BEST TO HELP THEM
THEIR CHANCES OF PARTICIPATING IN A MATCH WILL INCREASE GREATLY, ESPECIALLY SO FOR THE FIRST-YEARS...
YEAH!
PLEASE DO ME THIS FAVOUR...


HONESTLY SPEAKING... WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF TANBA WILL COME BACK IN HIS BEST CONDITION...
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS SUDDEN SITUATION WOULD ALSO BRING THE TEAM TOGETHER...

WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TANBA COMES BACK?


IF WE'RE ABLE TO TURN THIS CRISIS INTO A CHANCE...

IS MY STAMINA AND CONTROL...
THE PROBLEM WITH ME

I HAVE THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE TOO?
...

BUT...
ドゥン
TOKYO
ドクン
CAN THE CURRENT ME...
REALLY TAKE THE PLACE OF TANBA-SENPAI?
ドクン
ビクッ
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU FINALLY FOUND OUT WHERE YOU'RE LACKING
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT

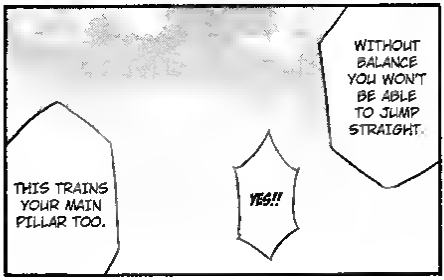
FOCUSING ON THEIR DEFENSE SKILLS AND THEIR CONTROL...
LET'S TRAIN THEM!
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW WHERE THEIR PROBLEM LIES... BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT!
MIYUKI..
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE MUST HAVE THEM PREPARED BEFORE SUMMER ARRIVES!

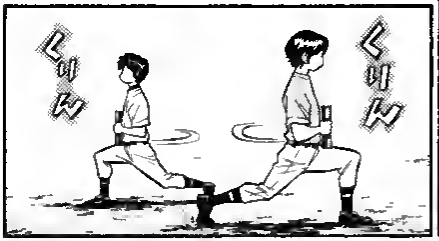
CHAPTER 59/ FIRST YEAR REPRESENTATIVE

RELAX FOCUS ON THE ROTATION OF THE BALL
IN YOUR ROOM, AIM TOWARDS THE CEILING.
YES!!
FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER YOU HAVE TIME, THROW THE BALL STRAIGHT UP LIKE THIS
IT'S SIMPLE, BUT WILL HELP YOU FOCUS ON YOUR FINGERTIPS
...
AH.

JUMP STRAIGHT AND STOP WHEN YOU LAND.
MAIN PILLAR JUMP

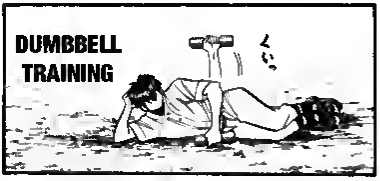
I WANT TO THROW MORE...
THE PRELIMINARIES ARE CLOSE. IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO DO SUCH PLAIN TRAINING?

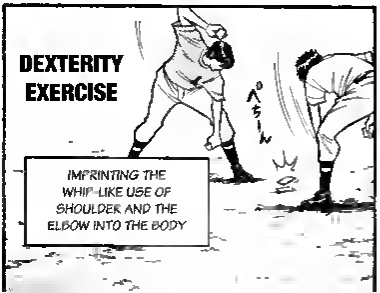

WITHOUT BALANCE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO JUMP STRAIGHT.
YES!!
THIS TRAINS YOUR MAIN PILLAR TOO.


しゅん
しゅん

STEP & TURN

YES!!
IT'S A MOVEMENT NEEDED FOR PITCHING
KEEP YOUR LEGS ON THE GROUND AND ROTATE YOUR HIPS


DUMBBELL TRAINING
くいっ


DEXTERITY EXERCISE
ペシーん
IMPRINTING THE WHIP-LIKE USE OF SHOULDER AND THE ELBOW INTO THE BODY

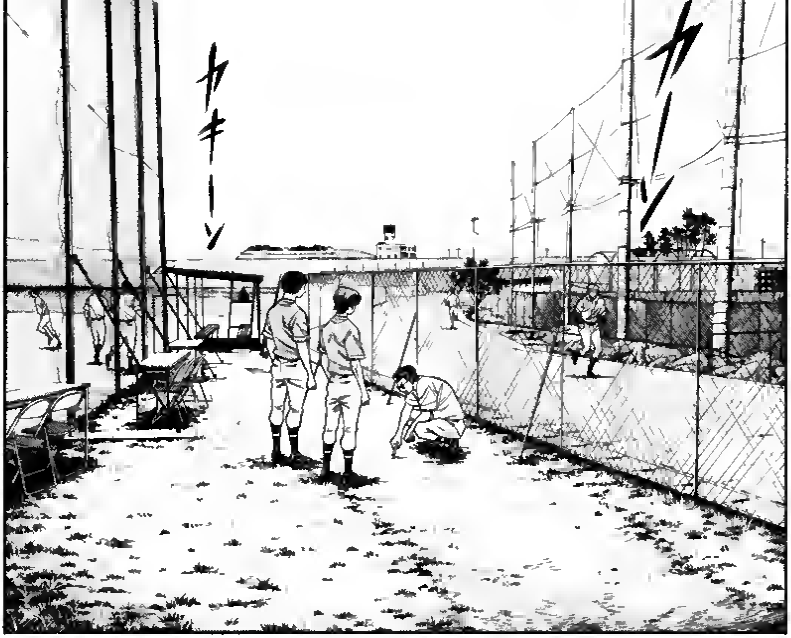
TUBE TRAINING
びにーん
EXERCISE FOR BETTER MOVEMENT OF THE INNER MUSCLES.

GOOD. NEXT, JOIN IN WITH THE THROW AND CATCH PRACTICE.
WE'LL LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THE DEFENCE LAST.
L-LAST
Y-YES!!
WE'RE SHORT ON TIME, BUT DON'T BE HASTY..
YOU LACK IN SKILL AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
BUT BEING HASTY WON'T GET ANYWHERE ...

AFTER THAT WE'LL SHIFT THE FOCUS ONTO SKILLS FOR PITCHING...
FOR NOW JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE TRAINING CAMP.
OKAY... LET'S GET INTO DEFENCE WITH IMAGING THE REAL DEAL
CHRIS-SENPAI...
...I SEE...
HE'S NOT ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT US, BUT ALSO GIVING US ADVICE...
HAHA
WE CAN ONLY TRUST AND FOLLOW HIS LEAD—
YES!! CHRIS-SENPAI!!
Y-YES

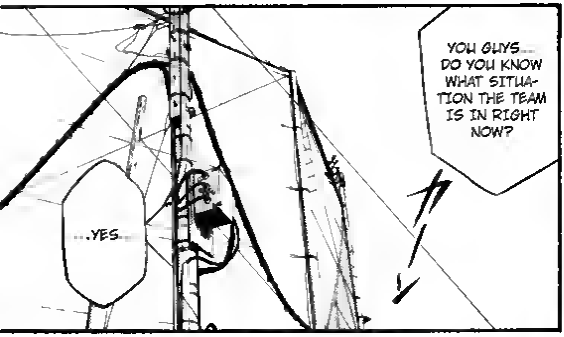
ALSO, BE SURE TO STUDY.
TESTS ARE NEAR.
C'MON!!

I GUESS THEY'RE STILL UNCERTAIN SOMEWHERE IN THEIR HEARTS.
THEIR SHOUTS STILL AREN'T COMING FROM THE HEART.
.....
CALL YUUKI AND ISASHIKI!!.


カキーン
カーン

ガリ
ガリ

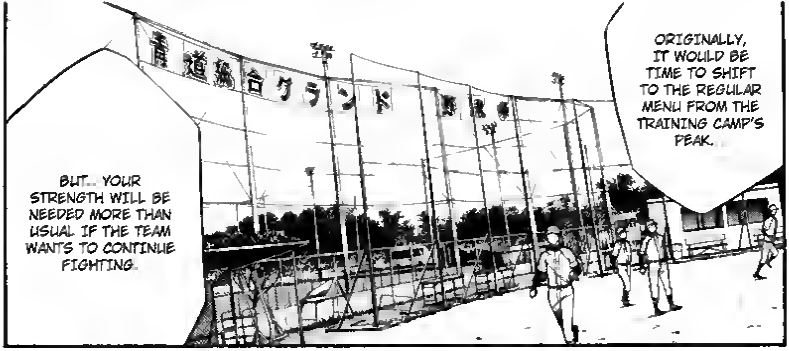
……


YOU GUYS... DO YOU KNOW WHAT SITUATION THE TEAM IS IN RIGHT NOW?
カーン
...YES...

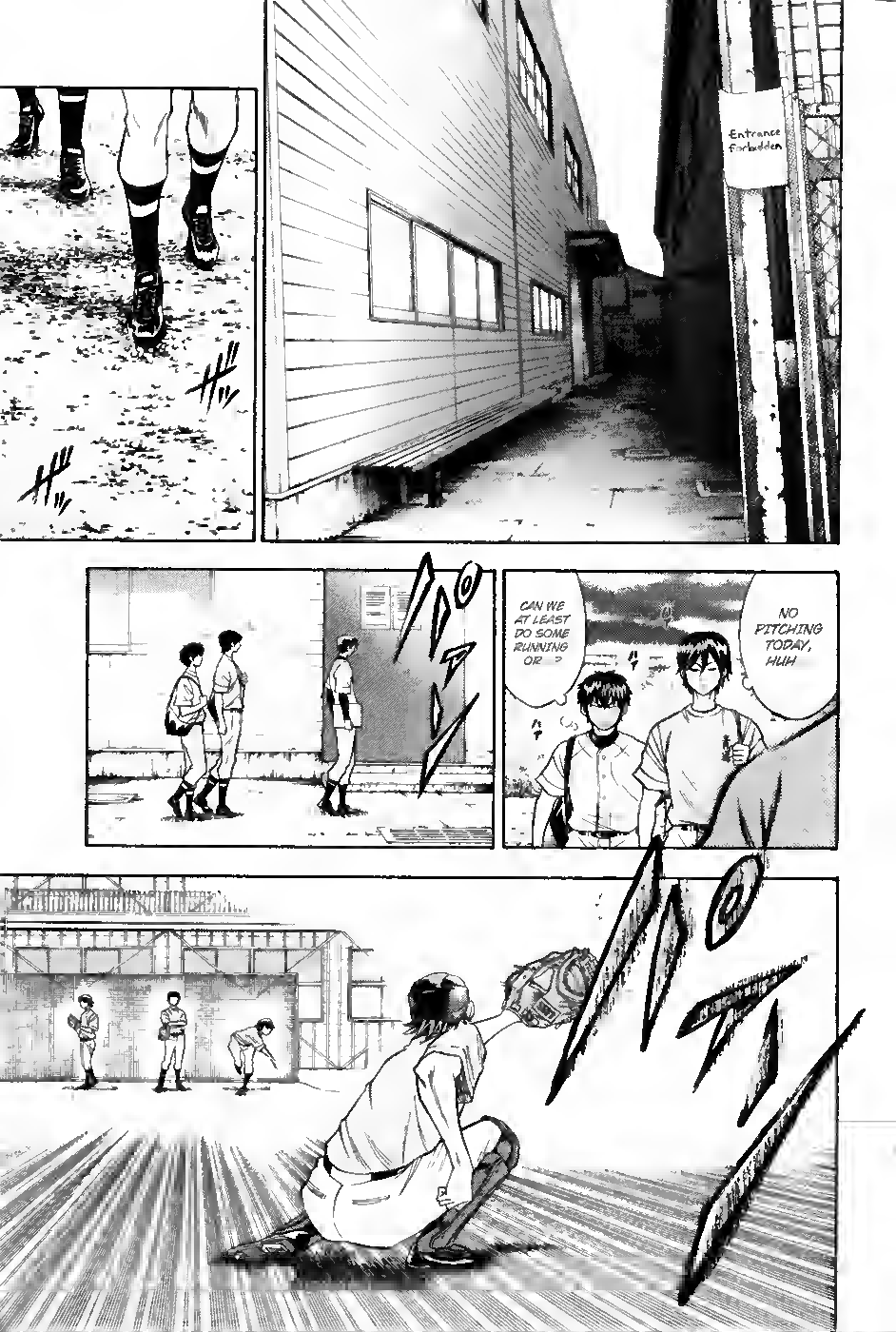
ガリ
ガリ

THEN WHY WON'T YOU TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND MAKE SOME NOISE?
YOU TWO ARE THE CORE PLAYERS OF THIS TEAM.
……
……
WITH THE WHOLE TANBA SITUATION, THE MORALE OF THE WHOLE TEAM IS FALLING
B 面
IN TIMES LIKE THESE, ISN'T IT THE DUTY OF YOU THIRD-YEARS TO ENCOURAGE THE TEAM?
YUUKI
ISASHIKI

FROM NOW ON, EVERY DAY
YOU'RE TO DO PITCHING PRACTICE AT THE BULL PEN AFTER TRAINING.
EH!?
!!


ORIGINALLY, IT WOULD BE TIME TO SHIFT TO THE REGULAR MENU FROM THE TRAINING CAMP'S PEAK.
BUT... YOUR STRENGTH WILL BE NEEDED MORE THAN USUAL IF THE TEAM WANTS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING.

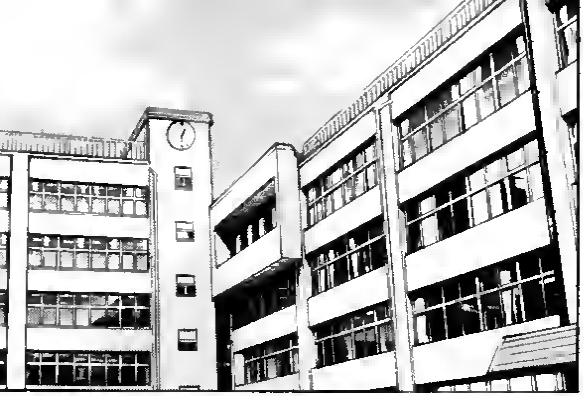
I KNOW YOUR BURDEN WILL GROW HEAVIER BY INCREASING THE TRAINING AMOUNT...
BUT I CAN ONLY ASK YOU TWO.


Entrance Forbidden
CAN WE AT LEAST DO SOME RUNNING OR...?
NO PITCHING TODAY, HUH

WHAT!?
NOT EVEN NEAR THE STRIKE ZONE..
HOW'S THAT, MIYUKI—!!
My bazooka ball!!
TCH. WHEN YOU'RE JUST A FIELD PLAYER YOURSELF
SWITCH WITH ME, JUN.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT A STRIKE IS
IT'S EFFECTIVE FOR BACK HOME THOUGH...
THESE TWO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. IF THEY'RE TOLD IT'S FOR THE TEAM, THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULDN'T GET FIRED UP.
THE FIRE IS BACK IN JUN-SAN'S EYES....
GUESS THE COACH WAS AFTER THAT WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THE PITCHER.
EH...!? I'LL THROW!!
WHAT'S WRONG, KAWAKAMI!! IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA THROW, SWITCH WITH ME!!

NOW TO FAN THE MOTIVATION OF THE PITCHERS THEMSELVES...
THROW ALREADY!!
MIYAUCHI-SENPAI, HERE I COME!
ムフ！
WHAT'S UP?
.....
MORE IMPORTANTLY, TIME FOR THE SELF-CRITICISM MEETING
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU APPEAL I WON'T LET YOU THROW TODAY
SO MAKE IT BACK INTO THE FIRST STRING!
WITH JUST ONE WIN FROM ME, IT'LL PROLONG OUR SUMMER

TANBA—
THIS TIME IT'LL BE US WHO WILL BE WAITING.....
FOR THE RETURN OF THE ACE—
...



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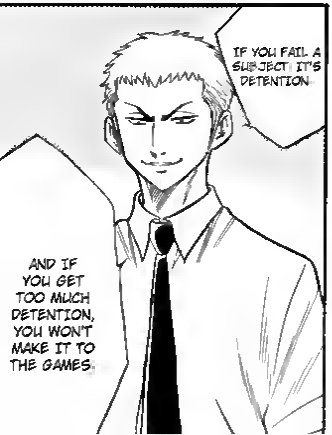
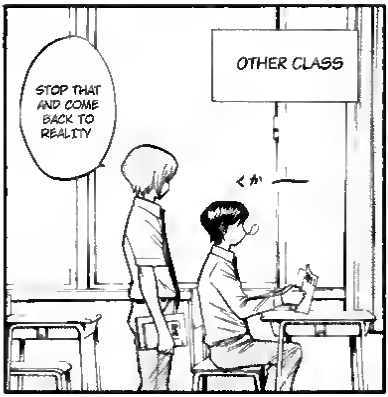
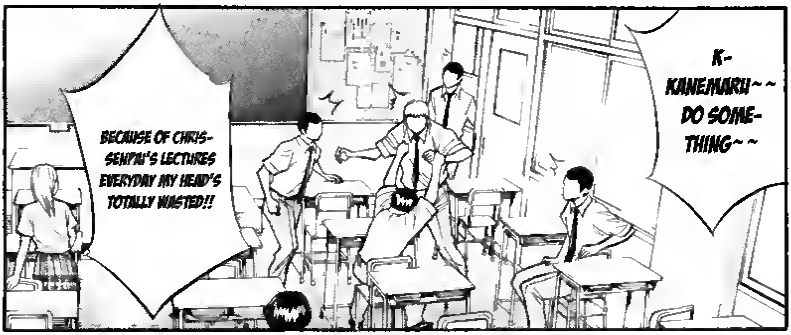

IF YOU FAIL A SUBJECT, IT'S DETENTION.
AND IF YOU GET TOO MUCH DETENTION, YOU WON'T MAKE IT TO THE GAMES.

HEY, ... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE AT A TOTAL LOSS?
ビクッ

I... I DON'T GET IT...
NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST


OTHER CLASS
STOP THAT AND COME BACK TO REALITY
くか

FOR REAL !?


BECAUSE OF CHRIS-SENPAI'S LECTURES EVERYDAY MY HEAD'S TOTALLY WASTED!!
K-KANEMARU~~ DO SOME-THING~~

CHRIS-SENPAI ASKED ME TO AFTER ALL
WELL, I DON'T MIND HELPING YOU STUDY...
EH!?

DON'T BE SO PATHETIC NOW.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SLACKING OFF DURING STUDY TIME!

I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT...
BUT HE'S ALREADY GIVING THIS PEST PLENTY.

BE IT BASEBALL
OR STUDYING

LISTEN, THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME UNTIL SUMMER!!
THERE REALLY MIGHT COME A CHANCE FOR YOU TO PLAY

I'LL BASH EVERYTHING INTO YOUR HEAD. ONLY TEMPORARILY THOUGH!

KANEMARU
....
YOU AREN'T JUST THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE BASEBALL CLUB.
....
YOU'RE A REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALL OF US FIRST-YEARS.

青心寮
FOR REAL!?
YOU GOT ONTO THE BENCH, EIJUN?
EH!? NO WAY...

GUESS OUR FIRST GOAL IS TO WIN THE OPENING GAME...
WE HAVE THE PREFECTURE PRELIMINARIES SOON.

THEY WERE HAPPY, AS IF THEY THEMSELVES WERE ON THE TEAM... SAYING "EI-CHAN IS OUR HERO AFTER ALL"!!
WHEN I TOLD THAT TO THE OTHERS...

GIVE IT YOUR BEST, EIJUN!
WE'LL DROP BY TO CHEER.
IF YOUR SCHOOL KEEPS ON WINNING,
ダイヤのA

CHAPTER 60/_TRUSTING HEART

YAAH~~
BRING IT
ON!!!
JUN-SAN'S
GETTING
WAY TOO
AGITATED
WRAAAR!!!

I'M DRAG-GING DOWN THE TEAM!!
HIT, HIT AND MORE HITS!!
THAT'S A FLY TO THIRD BASE, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, JUN-SAN
FLY AWAY~
AND DON'T STOP~
HE'S BEEN STANDING WITH THE BAT LIKE THAT FOR 10 MINUTES NOW
DON'T GET CLOSE TO HIM

F

EHH?
HOW-
ALRIGHT! THAT WAS SOME GOOD PRACTICE

LET'S SHOW SOME SPIRIT TOO!
YEAH!!
THE CAPTAIN AND JUN-SAN ARE SO SPIRITED...

I STOPPED THE MOMENTUM OF OUR ATTACK.
THE GAME WITH OSAKA KIRIYUU... AFTER TETSU WALKED, I COULDN'T CONTINUE...

ビュッ
I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
THIS WILL BE OUR LAST TOURNAMENT TOGETHER.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU HIT SAWAMURA'S PITCH TO THE HOME LINE?
THE MORE POWER YOU PUT INTO IT, THE WEAKER IT GETS.
EH?

WASN'T IT YOU WHO PROVED THAT?
IF YOU MAKE YOUR SWING MORE COMPACT, YOU WON'T LOSE POWER...
HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR OWN SWING!
HEY, HE'S REALLY GOOD AT BATTING

A RAW POWER THAT'S EQUAL TO HIS BROTHER, RYOUSUKE-KUN
HIS COMPETITIVE SPIRIT CONTINUES TO SHOW RESULTS EVEN IN PRACTICE GAMES.
WHAT'S MORE, WHEN HE STANDS IN THE BATTER'S BOX,
YOU GET THE FEELING THAT HE'LL PULL SOMETHING OFF—
JUST HAVING HIM ON THE BENCH IS ALSO PLENTY OF STIMULATION FOR THE OTHER PLAYERS.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, I FEEL LIKE I CAN HIT ANY PITCH.
I DON'T WANT TO SWING—
ブン
WELL...
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO GIVE UP MY POSITION AS A REGULAR...

GOOD
YOU AREN'T SHOWING ANY PROGRESS SHALL WE STOP?
DID YOU FORGET THE MATCH WITH KIRIYUU ALREADY?
YOU WON'T GET A GOOD PITCH WITH TOO MUCH POWER!!

WHAT YOU NEED RIGHT NOW IS CONTROL AND PACE MANAGE-MENT.
ANYWAYS, JUST THROW SOFT AND LOW.
AND LOW
SOFT
.... STAMINA ...

AH...
JUST NOW THE BALL RAN?
GOOD, FURUYA
NICE PITCH DON'T FORGET THIS FEELING
WITH JUST THAT POWER!?

SO WE HAD BETTER AVOID LETTING YOU WASTE TOO MUCH STRENGTH.
UNTIL TANBA RETURNS... THE BURDEN ON KAWAKAMI AND YOURSELF WILL INCREASE.
TAAAAAH
AGAIN!
ボスッ
THERE!
ボスッ
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE THROWING AT A NET!?
HOW'S THAT!?

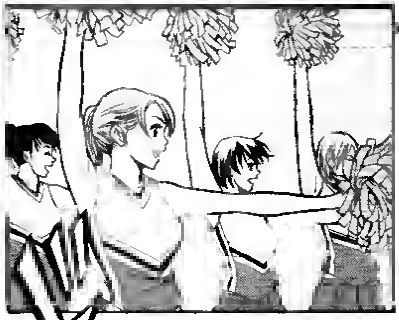
SLEEP DEPRIVED
COULD IT BE, I'M NOT IN THEIR SPEC-ULATIONS?
THAT'S WHY YOUR RELEASE POINT WON'T STABILIZE
YOU RAISE YOUR LEG DIFFERENTLY EVERY TIME.
THAT'S WHY CON-TROL BECOMES THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU
AND FOR YOU, YOU ONLY GOT A STRAIGHT BALL.
FOR NOW, FIX YOUR FORM.
YES

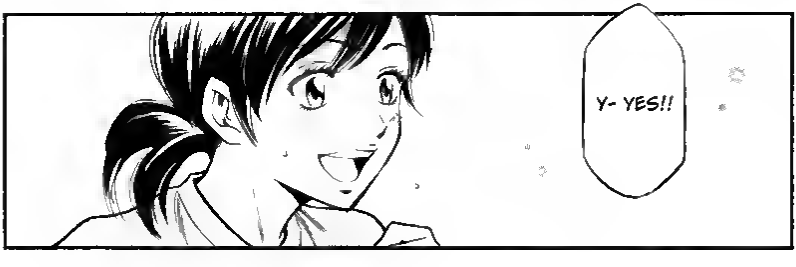
THE WAY HE GRASPS THE BALL.
WHAT'S LEFT IS...
DEPENDING ON HOW HE'S TAUGHT, HE CAN POLISH UP HIS CURRENT WEAPON SOME MORE—
SOME-THING'S UP?
..NO JUST CON-CENTRATE ON YOUR FORM
DON'T BE HASTY... THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN CONTROL HIM RIGHT NOW ARE US...
YES.

!?
!?
AS EXPECTED OF A POWERHOUSE.
BE IT THE BRASS BAND OR THE CHEERLEADERS, EVERYONE IS TRAINING...

SENPAI ---!!

THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE BASEBALL CLUB ARE REALLY SOMETHING.
ドン
ドン
ドン


ドン
ドン



THOUGH WE CAN ONLY

CHEER ON THE PLAYERS WITH ALL OUR MIGHT...

I WAS ENTRANCED BY THE CHEERLEADER'S PRACTICE...
GET GOING ALREADY!
AWW ~~~!!
WAIT, DIDN'T YOU GO TO FETCH ICE!?
WHERE'S THE ICE!?
PLEASE LET ME JOIN THE TRAINING AGAIN FROM TOMORROW
SO HOW DID IT GO? HOW DO YOU FEEL?
...YEAH.
THE PAIN IS MOSTLY GONE.

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE THE TEAM ANY MORE TROUBLE...
W- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TANBA.
THE SWELLING MIGHT BE GONE, BUT IT'S STILL FRAC-TURED.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT YOU CAN'T FORCE YOURSELF.
...
I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE TO FACE ICHIDAI
THE QUARTER-FINALS...
...TANBA....
TANBA-KUN...
YOU JUST HAVE TO BE BACK FOR THE QUARTERFI-NALS... IN PER-FECT CONDI-TION...

THEY'RE FIGHTING IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU'LL COME BACK
SH!
THAT'S WHY, YOU TOO
HAVE TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN THEM!

ダイヤのA
エース
OHHHH
A— A MIRACLE!!
I GUESS IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE TO HAVE HIM CRAM IT ALL AT ONCE...
HE BARELY PASSED ON ALL OF THEM...
KANEMARI, LOOK AT THIS!!
I PERFECTLY AVOIDED FAILING!!
DON'T WORRY. THEY'LL DO THE DETENTION BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT
ずーん
WELL... HE DID GIVE HIS BEST IN HIS OWN WAY...
My personal best
40

CHAPTER 61/ TOWARDS THE STAGE OF DREAMS

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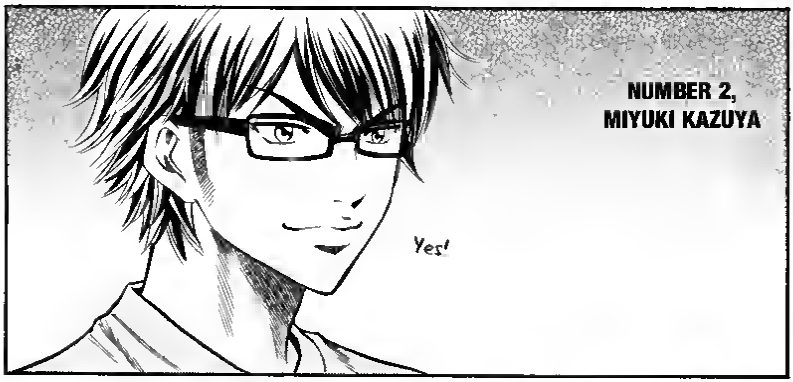
I'M HANDING OUT THE NUMBERS NOW
IF I CALL YOU, STEP UP

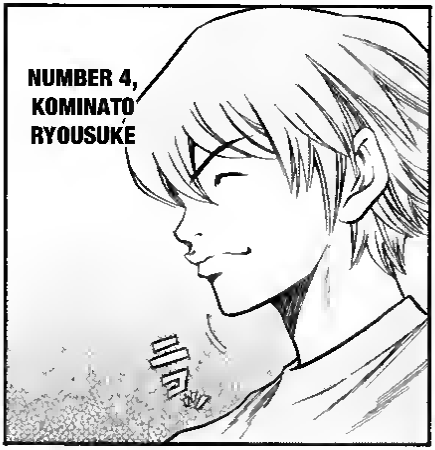
FIRST, THE NUMBER 1

TANBA KOUICHIROU.
WHAT'S UP?
COME AND GET IT
ME, WHO ISN'T EVEN GOING TO PLAY....?

Y-YES...
DON'T RUSH AND TAKE IT EASY RECOV-ERING.
青道
SO SERIOUS!!
HYAHAHA! IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, TANBA-SAN!
YOU WON'T SHAVE YOUR EYE-BROWS OFF?
WELL... I COULDN'T PITCH UNTIL THE END, SO
RATHER, WHAT DID YOU SHAVE YOUR HEAD FOR?

Stop it!
NEXT


NUMBER 2,
MIYUKI KAZUYA
Yes!


NUMBER 4,
KOMINATO
RYOUSUKE

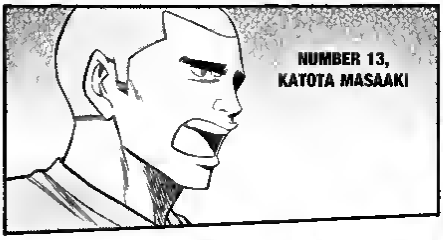
NUMBER 3,
YUUKI TETSUYA

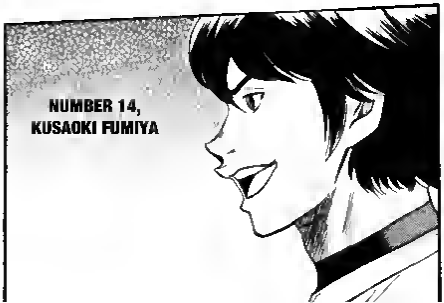
NUMBER 6,
KURAMOCHI
YOUICHI
NUMBER 5,
MASUKO TOORU
ぐっ
NUMBER 7,
SAKAI ICHIROU
ぐっ
NUMBER 8,
ISASHIKI JUN
しゃらぁあ
NUMBER 10,
KAWAKAMI
NORIFUMI
Yes!
NUMBER 9,
SHIRASU
KENJIROU
I'll give
my best

NUMBER 11,
FURUYA SATORU

IN SPRING HE WAS ONLY NUMBER 18 QUITE THE AD-VANCEMENT
DE-TEN-TION
SO HE'S THE 11...

MAKE SURE TO ATTEND YOUR DE-TENTION.


NUMBER 13,
KATOTA MASAAKI

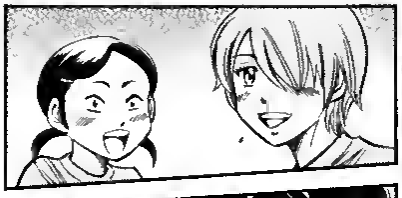

NUMBER 14,
KUSAOKI FUMIYA

NUMUER 12,
MIYAUCHI KEISUKE

NUMBER 17,
ENDOU NAOKI
Yes!
NUMBER 16,
TANAKA SHIN
NUMBER 15,
HIGASA SHOUJI
Yes!
青道
青道
NUMBER 18,
YAMAZAKI
KUNIO
NUMBER 19,
KOMINATO HARUICHI
ペコリ
NUMBER
20...

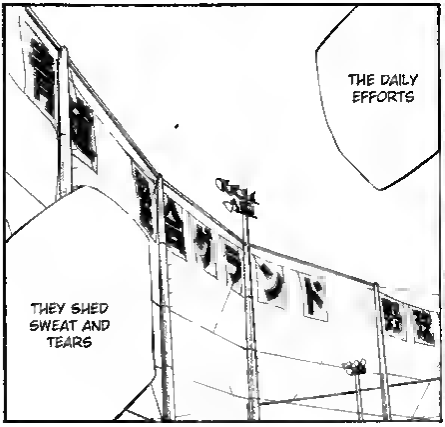
YESS!!
SAWA—
YOU'RE QUICK
THANK YOU!!
WHAT AN IDIOT.
RIGHT NOW IT MIGHT STILL BE TWO DIGITS
BUT SOMEDAY FOR SURE, MY NUMBER WILL BE...
I'M GLAD...
I REALLY GOT ONE

YES...
CHRIS WILL KEEP THE SCORE.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
YOU HELPED US A GREAT DEAL TOO
ALSO, MISS MANAGERS.
OUR UNIFORM FOR MATCHES ...
TOKYO
EH?



YOU'RE ALSO PART OF THE TEAM.
PLEASE CHEER FROM THE STAND WITH THE OTHER PLAYERS.

I GET YOU I REALLY DO
SHUT UP!
I'M NOT!
AWW~~ TAKAKO-SENPAI IS CRYING.


THE DAILY EFFORTS
THEY SHED SWEAT AND TEARS

I THINK YOU ALL UNDER-STAND
BUT THERE'S NOTHING AFTER THIS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

EVERY-
THING IS
FOR THE
SAKE
OF THIS
SUMMER.

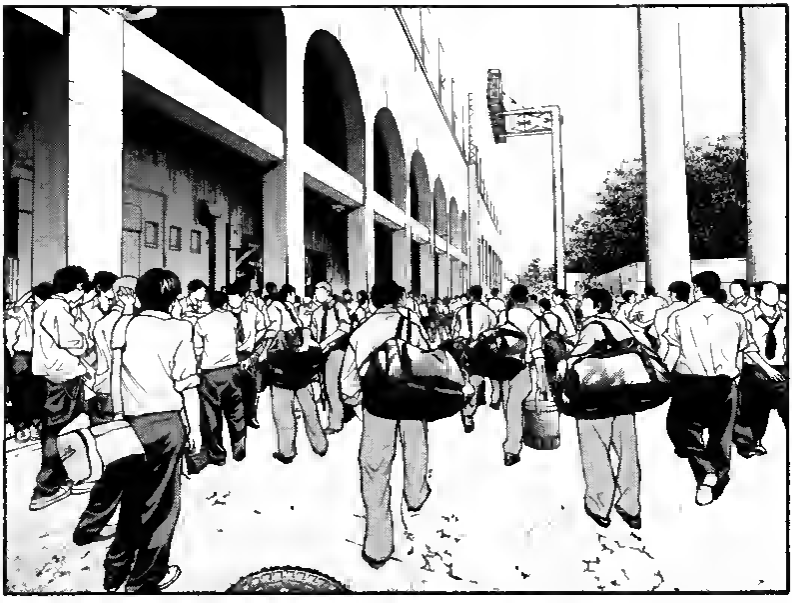
OKAY!
LET'S DO
THE USUAL!
YES!!

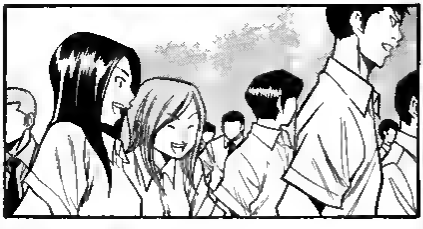
WE CAME TO
ENCOURAGE
THEM, BUT IT'S
HARD TO SHOW
UP NOW
Y-
YEAH

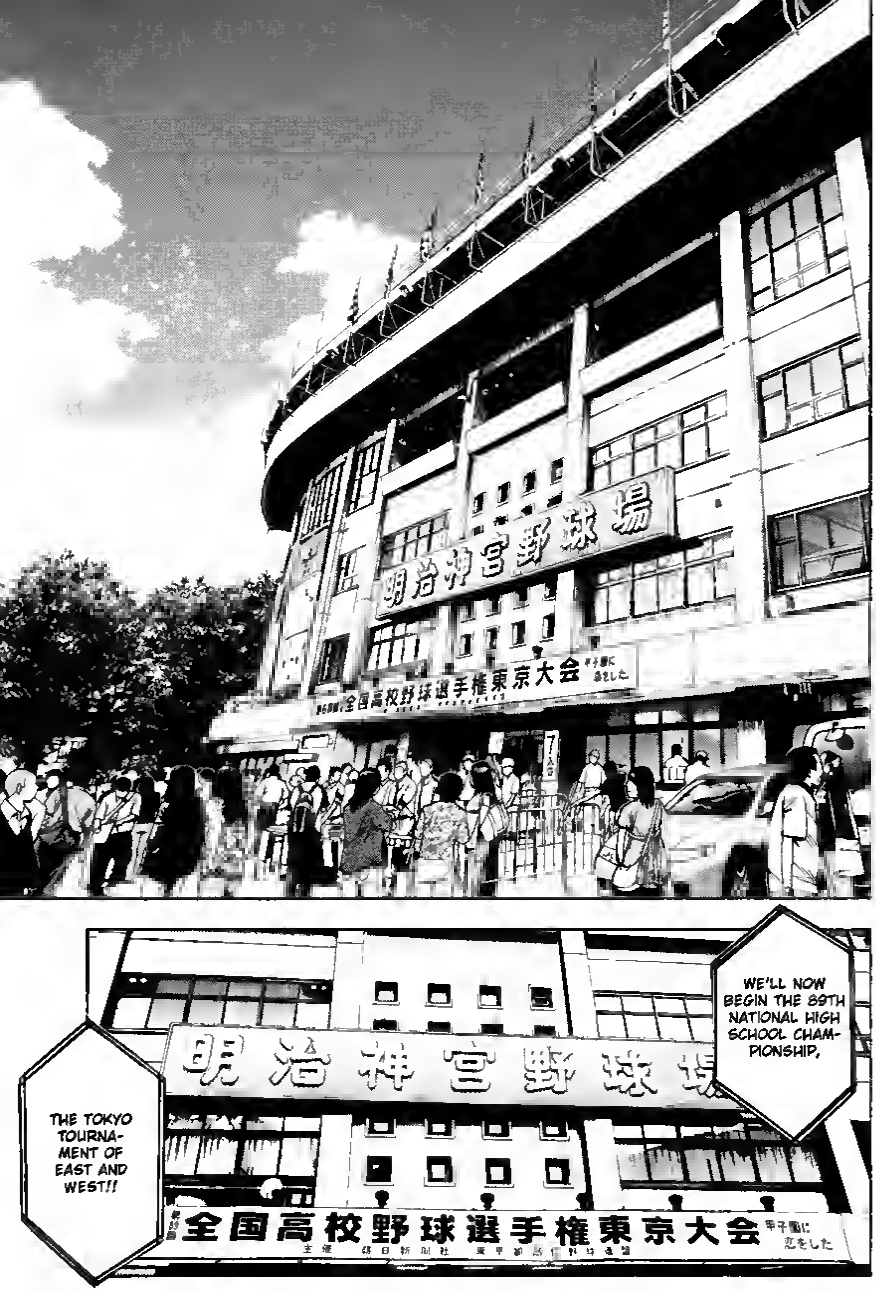
HUH? WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
TANBA, YOU DON'T NEED TO SHOUT
WHO ARE WE—?
トン
トン

THE KING, SEIDOU!!
WHO SHEDS MORE SWEAT THAN ANYONE ELSE?
SEIDOU!!
WHO LOVES BASEBALL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE?
SEIDOU!!
...DOU (PUHUUYA)
WHO SHEDS MORE TEARS THAN ANYONE ELSE?
SEIDOU!!
...DOU (SAWA-HUIYA)
ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT!?
OHHH

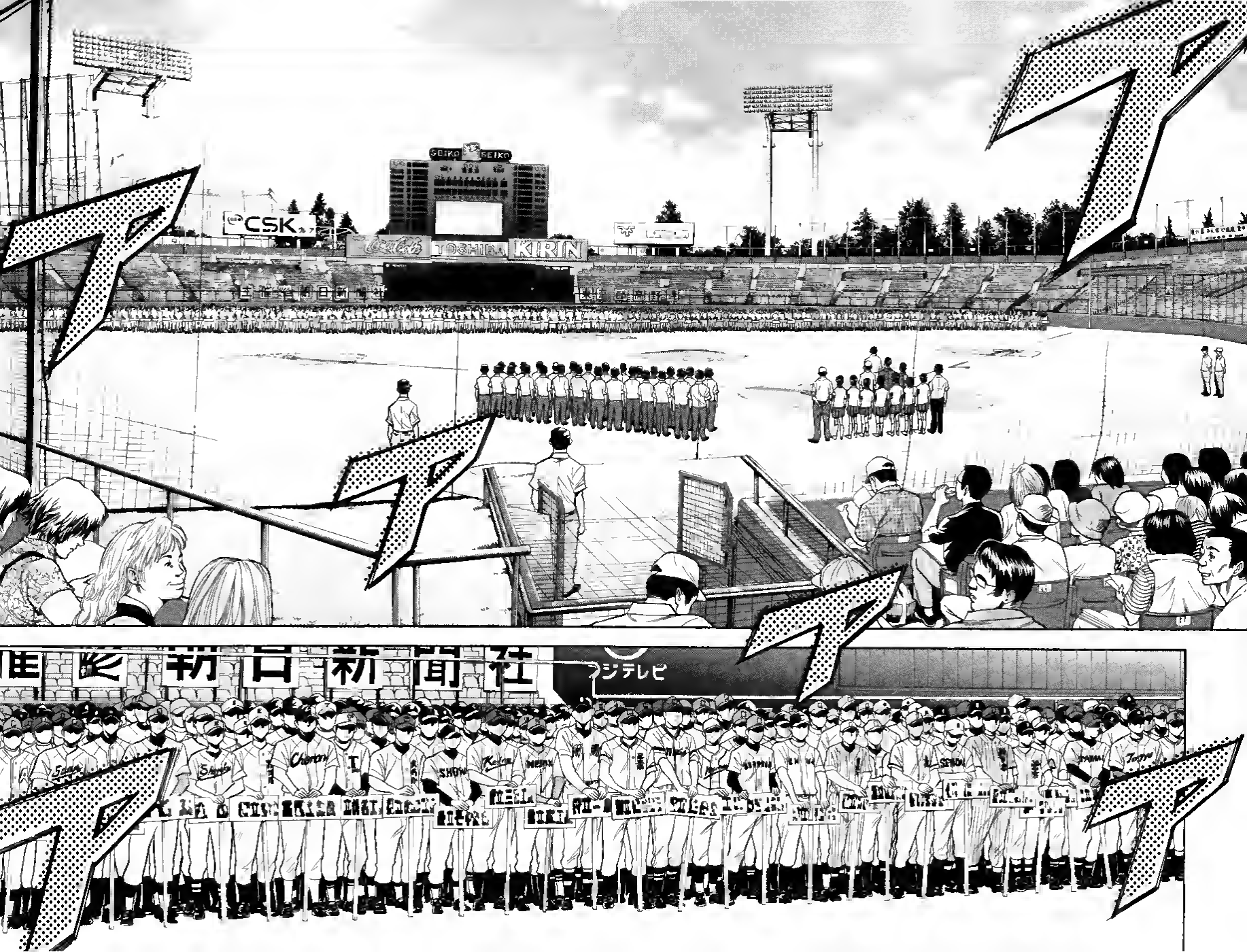
OHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
LET'S GO!!
WITH THE PRIDE OF OUR SCHOOL IN OUR CHEST!
WE STRIVE TO CON-QUER THE NATION!






明治神宮野球場
全国高校野球選手権東京大会
甲子園に恋をした

WE'LL NOW BEGIN THE 89TH NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP,
THE TOKYO TOURNAMENT OF EAST AND WEST!!
明治神宮野球場
全国高校野球選手権東京大会
甲子園に恋をした

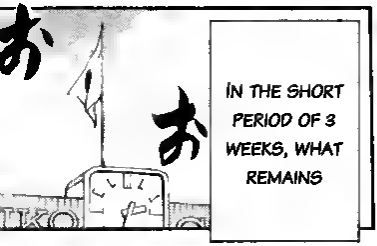

CSK
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
フジテレビ

SHUT UP, MEI...
I CAN'T SEE IN FRONT BECAUSE OF MASA-SAN
SO HOT AND CRAMPED ...
INASHIRO
IT'S WAY TOO CROWDED DAMNIT
TEITO
黒土館

OHHH~~

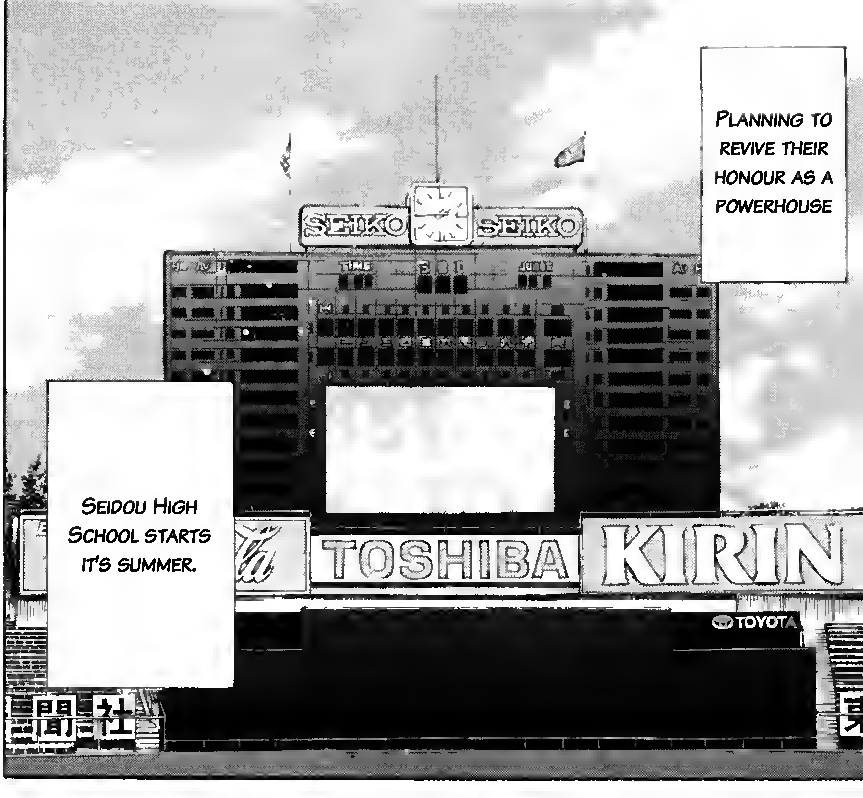
THE FIRST GOAL IS TO RETURN HERE
THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE EAST DISTRICT WILL BE HELD HERE AT JINGU

THAT'S BECAUSE THE OPENING CEREMONY ASSEMBLES EVERYONE FROM THE EAST AND WEST
WHAT A MASS OF PEOPLE

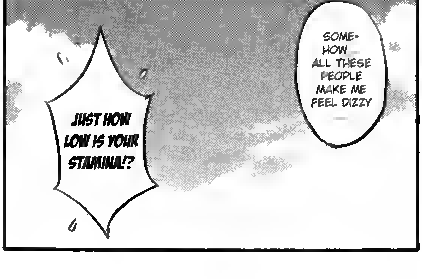

IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF 3 WEEKS, WHAT REMAINS

260 SCHOOLS IN TOTAL...
TOSHIBA
KIRIN

WILL BE TWO SCHOOLS AS REPRESENTATIVES.


Planning to revive their honour as a powerhouse
Seidou High School starts it's summer.
SEIKO
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
TOYOTA

It's already crowded, so stand properly.
Hey... what are you doing?


Just how low is your stamina!?
Somehow all these people make me feel dizzy

クラ クラ
青道

ダイヤのA
エース
12
MH?
3
6
AH
INASHIRO

CHAPTER 62/ FIRST OPPONENT

AHH~~~!!
T- TANBA-SAN WENT BALD FROM THE SHOCK OF THAT DEAD BALL!
DON'T HIDE BEHIND ME
I GOT A COLD SWEAT BACK THEN
BUT IT SEEMS IT WASN'T SO SERIOUS
OF COURSE! TANBA'S FACE IS HARDER THAN STEEL!
ゴッ
HIS FIST IS LIKE A RICE-CRACKER
NO, THAT'LL BREAK.
LIKE IT WOULD LOSE TO A HARD-BALL.
FURUYA, WALK ON YOUR OWN!!
IMPOSSIBLE
WANT SOME WATER?
JUST LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING US.
YOU'RE ALL SO ENERGETIC...
FURUYA?

EWWW...!? THAT'S FURUYA!?
HIS EYES ARE PURE WHITE...
ずーん
MH? YOU'RE ON THE BENCH?
OF COURSE!
IT WAS YOU WHO KEPT TALKING
YOU'RE HERE TO GET INFO OUT OF US AGAIN?
AH～THE BLONDIE FROM INALITSU.
TRY NOT TO LOSE UNTIL YOU PLAY US.
STOP TALKING.
You're revealing too much
THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD BE SAYING!!

THEN, AT THE FINALS.
AT THE FINALS—
YEAH
INASHIRO

LATELY, WE'VE BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE PRESENTS.
TODAY WE'VE GOT ANOTHER 3.
AND THE OB ARE COMING EVERYDAY TO WATCH US TRAIN
WE GET THIS MUCH EVERY YEAR
BECAUSE LOTS OF OUR OB WERE AT KOUSHIEN.

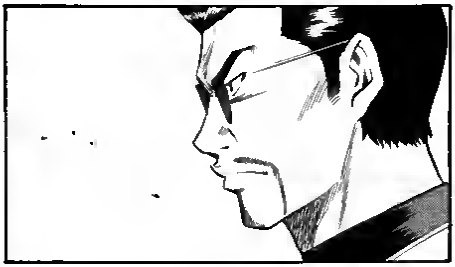
THOUGH I THINK THAT JUST INCREASES THE PRESSURE ON THE PLAYERS...
FOR NOW, I HAVE TO CATCH THE BALL PROPERLY
NICE COVER!!
WELL DONE, FURUYA!
THAT WAS A GOOD MOVE.
THEN STEP ON THE BASE!

BALL 3,
MAKE IT TO THIRD BASE!!
There!
WRAAAAA
THE DAILY PRACTICE SURE PAID OFF.
JUST A FLUKE!
NICE FIELDING!!
HURRY UP AND RETURN
NOT BAD!
I JUST HOPE IT KEEPS UP IN A REAL MATCH...
Right back at you!
Nice fluke

AH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THAT WAS A BUNT RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, KAWAKAMI!!
WHAT ARE YOU MESSING UP FOR?
TAKE THE EXAMPLE FROM THE FIRST-YEARS!!
HEY, HEY. HIS MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN REALLY STIFF LATELY...
I'M SORRY. PLEASE, ONCE MORE!!
IT REMINDS ME, KAWAKAMI HAS BARELY ANY EXPERIENCE OF BEING IN AN IMPORTANT GAME RIGHT FROM THE START.

IS CAUSING HIM QUITE A BIT OF PRES-SURE?
COULD IT BE, TANBA-SAN'S ABSENCE

I TOOK A LOOK AT THE FIRST ROUND
COACH,



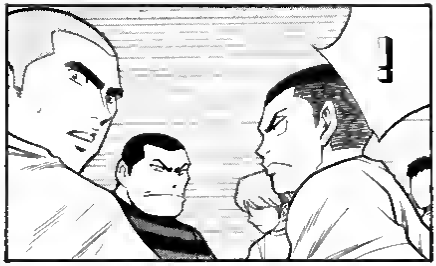
MAIMON WEST HIGH SCHOOL.
OUR FIRST OPPONENT IS

NUMBER 1, A LEFT-HANDED OVERTHROW, KIKUNAGA MASAAKI.
HIS SPEED IS AROUND 120 KM/H. FOR BREAKING BALLS, HE'S GOT THE CURVE AND A SLIDER.

J- JUST HOW MUCH INFORMATION IS IN THAT NOTEBOOK?
HE'S THE SECOND OLDEST OUT OF 3 BROTHERS. HIS HOBBY IS BILLIARDS. HIS OLDER BROTHER PLAYS BASEBALL TOO.
THIS SUMMER HE WAS CHOSEN AS THE ACE IN HIS SECOND-YEAR. IN HIS FIRST-YEAR, HE PROTECTED THE OUTER FIELD.
HIS CONTROL ISN'T ALL THAT GOOD.
THEIR BATTING ORDER USES A LOT OF BUNTS...
AND THEY RARELY MAKE ANY MISTAKES IN FIELDING
THEY GIVE OFF THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY'RE A DEFENSIVE TEAM THAT GRABS ONE CHANCE FIRMLY AND THEN PROTECTS IT UNTIL THE END.
THE LEFT-FIELDER SEEMS TO HAVE A GOOD SHOULDER...
THE NUMBER 4 HIT A LOT OF FLIES...
THEY TOOK A FIRST VICTORY AND ARE IN FULL GEAR,
SO DON'T EVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN
THANKS
GOOD.

WHOEVER THE OPPONENT IS, WE'LL GO IN WITH OUR FULL POWER.
BY DOING THAT, VICTORY WILL COME TO US BY ITSELF!!
YES!!
ALSO, THE STARTING PITCHER FOR THE FIRST GAME
D-- Don't tell me

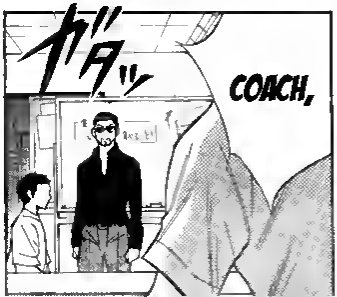
WE'LL GO WITH
ACE OF SPADES
火の車
THE FIRST-YEAR, FURUYA.



火の車
BUT FOR US TO KEEP WINNING THIS SUMMER, WE'LL NEED A BACK-UP PITCHER.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST GAME,
KAWAKAMI!
EH ...?
I CAN ONLY ASK THIS IMPORTANT ROLE OF YOU.
RUN TMT
BE READY TO PITCH AT ANY TIME.

HE DIDN'T LET HIM BE THE STARTING PITCHER BECAUSE HE DOESN'T TRUST HIM.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
YES!!
C- COACH...

IF HE KNOWS HIS ROLE FROM THE BEGINNING, HE WON'T BECOME UNEASY AND WILL FULLY CONCENTRATE ON HIS ROLE...
BUT HE DOES TRUST HIM AS A RELIEF PITCHER, WHICH HE HAS PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE AS...
RUN TMT
40


ガラッ
COACH,

FURUYA CAN STAND ON THE MOUND WITHOUT WORRIES ABOUT HIS STAMINA IF HE HAS KAWAKAMI COVERING FOR HIM...
AND WHAT'S MORE
YOU NERVOUS?

I TOO WILL ALWAYS BE READY TO PITCH!
火の車
WELL, SURE
SO QUIET!!
青心寮
...
THE STARTING PITCHER...
ON A BRAND-NEW MOUND...
FURUYA, YOU STAY BEHIND FOR A BIT

SAWAMURA

I NEED TO RUN!!
DAMN. WHAT'S THIS UNEASINESS!?
GUESS I'LL TAG ALONG

YOUR COURSE IS STILL A BIT FLAWED, BUT YOU'RE HITTING MORE AND MORE THE STRIKE ZONE.
CHRIS-SENPAI
I SAW IT AT THE BULL PEN TODAY. YOU STABILIZED YOUR MAIN PILLAR AND GOT DOWN YOUR FORM.

LOOKS LIKE "THIS" WILL BE THE LAST THING
I CAN TEACH YOU.

IF YOU'RE SO ENERGETIC, WANNA THROW A FEW PITCHES?
!!

YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH FOR ME, CHRIS-SENPAI!?

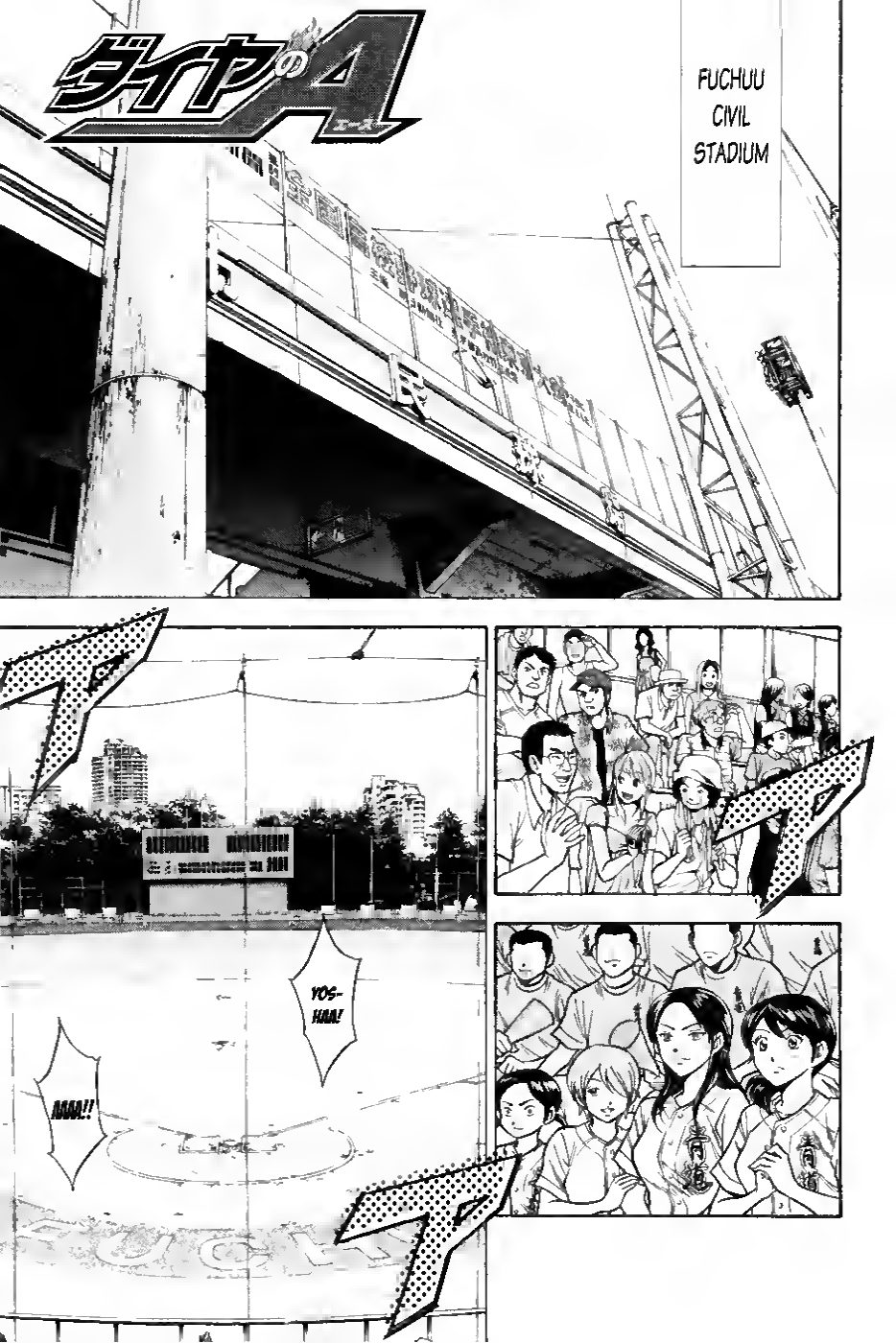
EH?
火の車
HOW WAS IT? THOSE GUYS FROM SEIDOU CAME TO SPY, RIGHT?
YEAH . THEY EVEN TOOK A VIDEO
MAIMON WEST HIGH SCHOOL

FUHAHA-HAHA
I CAN SEE THEIR SURPRISED FACE ALREADY!!

I'M SURE THEY'RE LOOKING DOWN ON US BECAUSE WE'RE A PUBLIC SCHOOL
I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
THEY SURE ARE!!

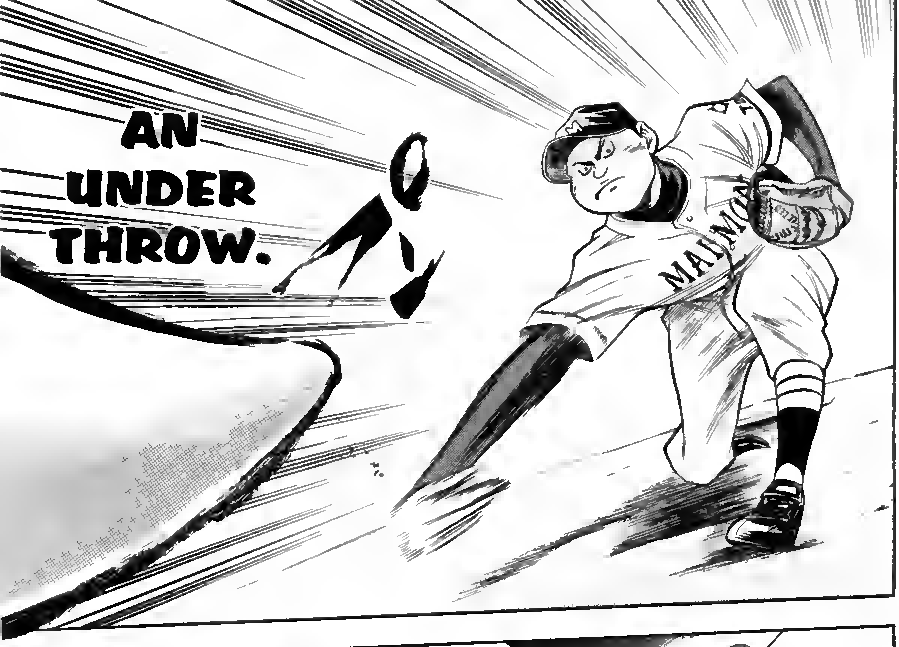
THE DEVIL HOUSES WITHIN CARELESSNESS.

SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL IS NOTHING TO BE FEARED.
MAIMON WEST HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH CHIBA JUNICHI

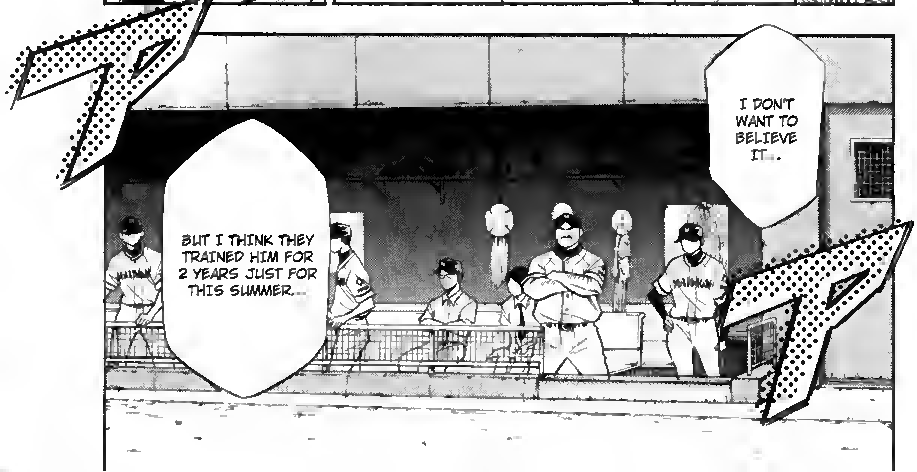

ダイヤのA
FUCHUU CIVIL STADIUM
YOS-HAA!
MAA!!

CHAPTER 63/ CARELESSNESS IS THE BIGGEST OPPONENT

FINALLY, SEIDOU'S SUMMER IS STARTING.
IT'S THEIR ALL-IMPORTANT FIRST GAME. I HOPE THEY AREN'T TOO NERVOUS
THEY'LL PULL IT OFF!!
HEY, HEY, NUMBER 10?
NOT THEIR LEFT-HANDED ACE?
ALSO
10

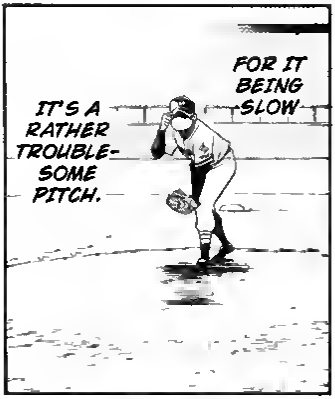

AN UNDER THROW.

NUMBER 10. MINAMIDAIRA MAMORU (3RD YEAR)
IN HIS FIRST YEAR HE PITCHED A FEW GAMES, BUT AFTER THAT HE HADN'T APPEARED IN ANY OFFICIAL GAMES...


I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT...
BUT I THINK THEY TRAINED HIM FOR 2 YEARS JUST FOR THIS SUMMER...

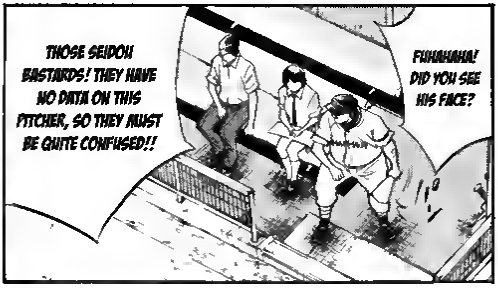
PLAY BALL!!
6
10

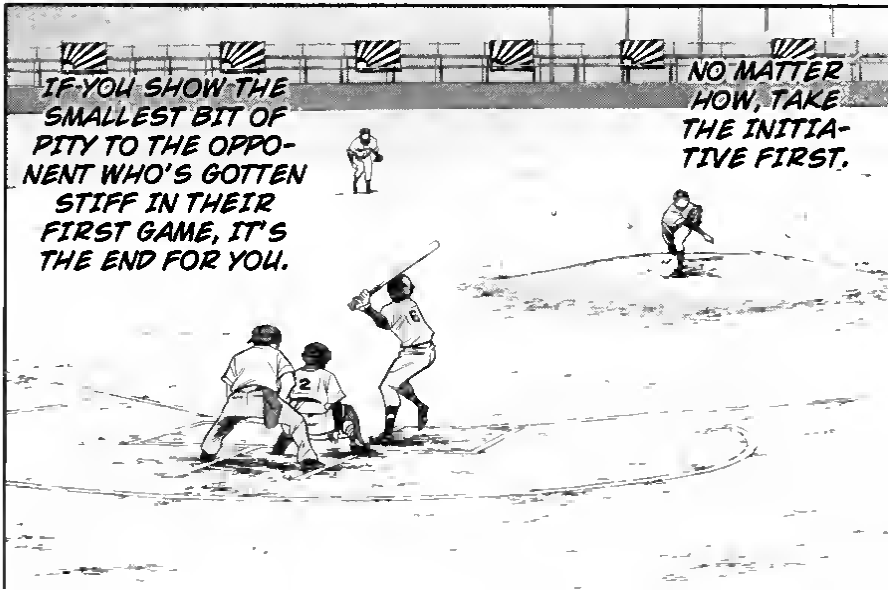
OKAY, WHAT NOW...
KURAMOCHI, HIT IT AWAY～～
SHOW THEM YOUR SPEED!!
THE ROLE OF THE FIRST BATTER IS TO GET ONTO THE BASE.
BUT... TELLING ME TO HIT THE PITCH OF A PITCHER I GOT NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER ABOUT...
STRIKE～～!
SO SLOW


IT'S A RATHER TROUBLE-SOME PITCH.
FOR IT BEING SLOW

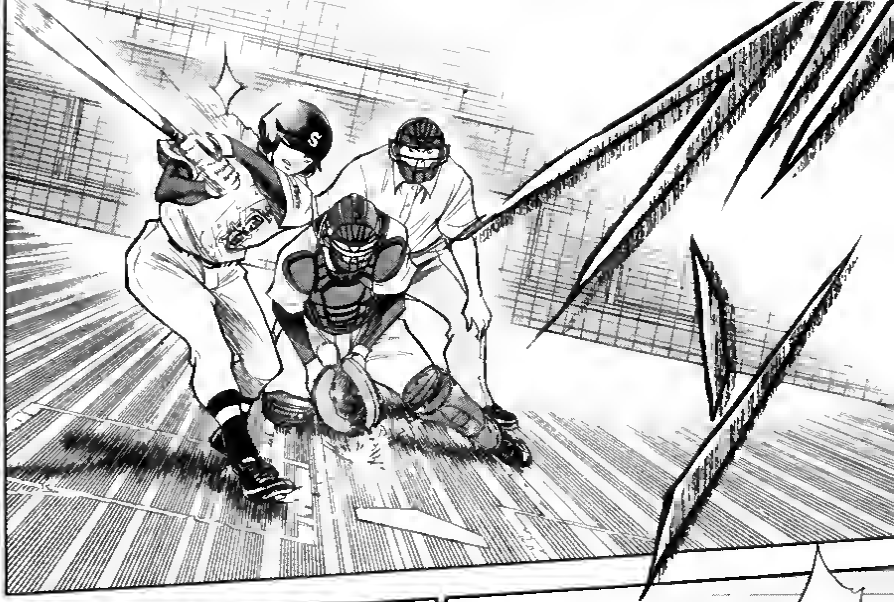
IT'S EVEN LOWER THAN KAWAKAMI'S ...
AT FIRST IT RAISES AND THEN IT DROPS...

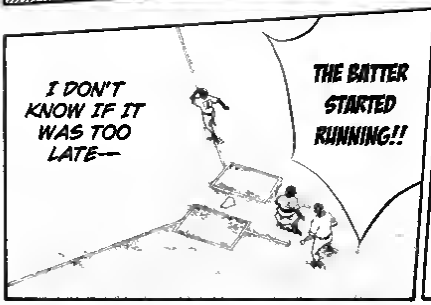
CHIBA RYUU'S FIRST IRON RULE FOR MATCHES:

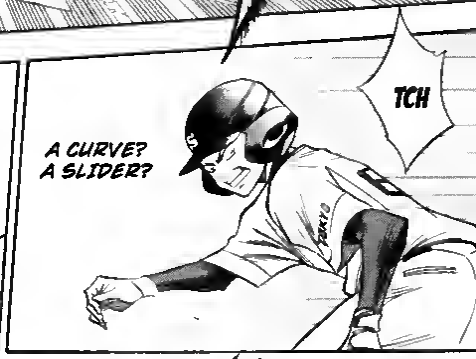

THOSE SEIDOH BASTARDS! THEY HAVE NO DATA ON THIS PITCHER, SO THEY MUST BE QUITE CONFUSED!!
FUHAHAHA! DID YOU SEE HIS FACE?

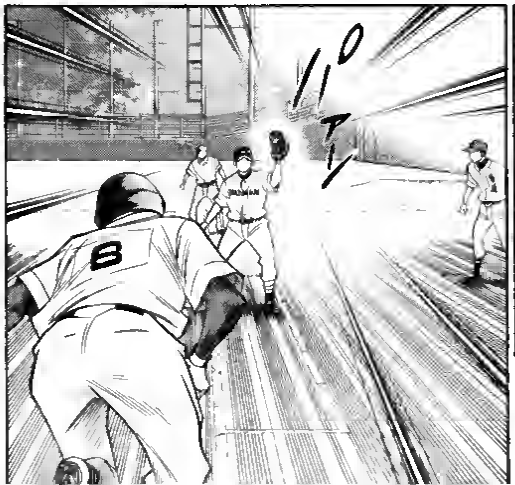

IF YOU SHOW THE SMALLEST BIT OF PITY TO THE OPPO-NENT WHO'S GOTTEN STIFF IN THEIR FIRST GAME, IT'S THE END FOR YOU.
NO MATTER HOW, TAKE THE INITIA-TIVE FIRST.

HEY, THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, KURUMOCHI!!
BE MORE AGGRESSIVE!!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR ANY EASY PITCH ANYMORE.
DAMN~~ I'M IN A PINCH...
STRIKE!!
パン
JUST WHEN I HAVE TO GET WHATEVER INFORMATION POSSIBLE ON THIS PITCHER FOR THE OTHERS...
LOW!
BUT... IT'S STILL BARELY ON COURSE.
ブルン




I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS TOO LATE—
THE BATTER STARTED RUNNING!!


A CURVE? A SLIDER?
TCH


8

EVEN ON A DEFLECTED BALL, THEY STILL KEPT THEIR COMPOSURE
YEAH
AWW～ OUT ALREADY?
IT'S BECAUSE HE KEPT ON WAITING. SO NOT LIKE HIM.
A WELL-REHEARSED BATTERY AFTER ALL.
THEY'RE
IT WAS ENOUGH, SINCE I GOT TO SEE THAT BREAKING BALL
TOKYO
RYOH-SAN, I'M SORRY!!

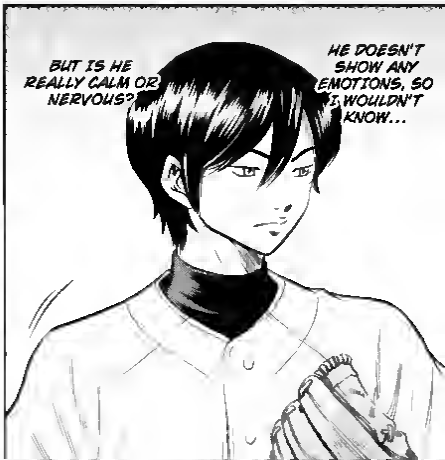
ニコッ

ONLY AIM AT A WEAK PITCH!!
くい

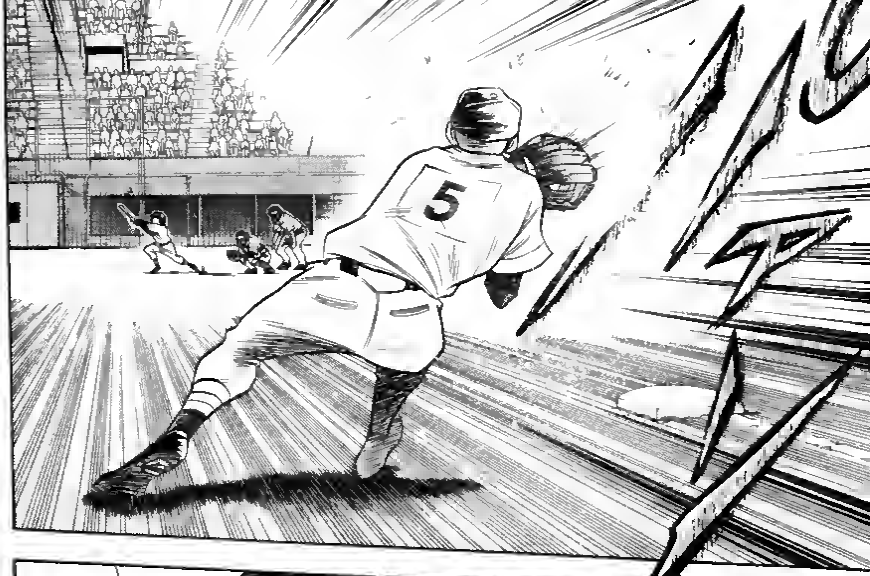
WHY?
S- SHOULD I JOIN YOU TOO?

HEY, FURUYA... LET'S DO SOME CATCH BALL FOR NOW...

I WANT TO GET SOME POINTS SO HE CAN GET CALMLY ON THE MOUND...

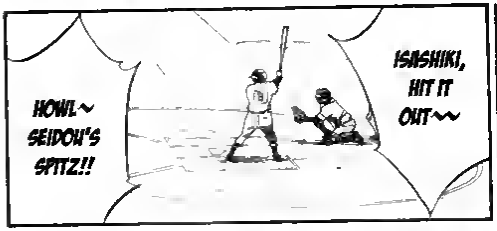

BUT IS HE REALLY CALM OR NERVOUS?
HE DOESN'T SHOW ANY EMOTIONS, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW...

HE'S NOT GOING FOR THE LOW ONES AT ALL.
FOR NOW, I'LL CAREFULLY AIM FOR THE OUTSIDE!!
DAMN, TOO WEAK!!


5

UH~~
I PULLED
TOO HARD.
TOKYO

AWW, AT
THE THIRD
LINE.
HOW UN-
LUCKY.


ISHISHIKI,
HIT IT
OUT~~
HOWL~
SEIDOU'S
SPITZ!!

くわっ

WILL THEY
BE FINE?
GETTING OUTS
SO EASILY IN
THE FIRST
INNING?
GUESS
THEY'RE
NERVOUS
AFTER ALL?

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A SPITZ!?
STRIKE!
CALM DOWN, ISASHIKI ～～～!!
SO HE HEARD THAT.
むくぐ
LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE BALL, BEARD-SENPAI!
YEAH...
I THINK FROM THE RIGHT BATTER BOX THAT OUTSIDE PITCH LOOKS RATHER FAST

WRR
RUN, ISASHIKI, RUN〜〜
YAAY, THERE IT GOES〜〜
TOKYO

GETTING ME SOUNDLY AT THE OUT-SIDE ..
DAMN...
UWAAA, SEIDOU GOT LAID OUT SO EASILY...
THE RIGHT WAS GUARDED SO WELL.
GUESS HAIMON DID THEIR HOMEWORK PERFECTLY!!
RATHER THIS IS THE RESULT OF EVERYONE PROPERLY DOING THEIR JOB..
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE TAKING IT EASY ON THEM...
LET'S GO!!

AT PRESENT, THIS IS OUR BEST ORDER.
FURUYA IS THE STARTING PITCHER AND KAWAKAMI IS THE RESERVE
...
BUT I GUESS I WANTED TO SCORE FIRST, AFTER ALL—
N 1 2 3 4 5
青道 0
米門
IT'S GOING TO TURN INTO THE WORST START...
AND IF FURUYA SCREWS UP...
BUT THAT'S SPECIALLY WHAT WE, THE WEAKER TEAM, AIM FOR!!
EVEN IF THEIR HEAD TELLS THEM NOT TO, UNCONSCIOUSLY THEY'RE UNDERESTI-MATING US!
FUHUHUHUHU! THEY WERE CARELESS.

HEY
11
EVEN IF THEY'RE A POWERHOUSE, TO SEND OUT A FIRST-YEAR IN THEIR FIRST MATCH. FUHAHAHA!
AND THERE IS THE PROOF:
THEIR STARTING PITCHER IS A FIRST-YEAR!!
YOU HAVE NO STAMINA, SO JUST LEAVE THE REST...
I'M ALWAYS READY IF THEY HIT OFF YOU!!
WE CAN SWITCH ANY TIME!!
青道
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO PLAY ALL FULL 9 INNINGS.
SO YOU CAN GO FOR FULL POWER FROM THE BEGINNING TOO.
FURUYA...
つ～ん
DON'T IGNORE ME, BASTARD!!
SOMEHOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE

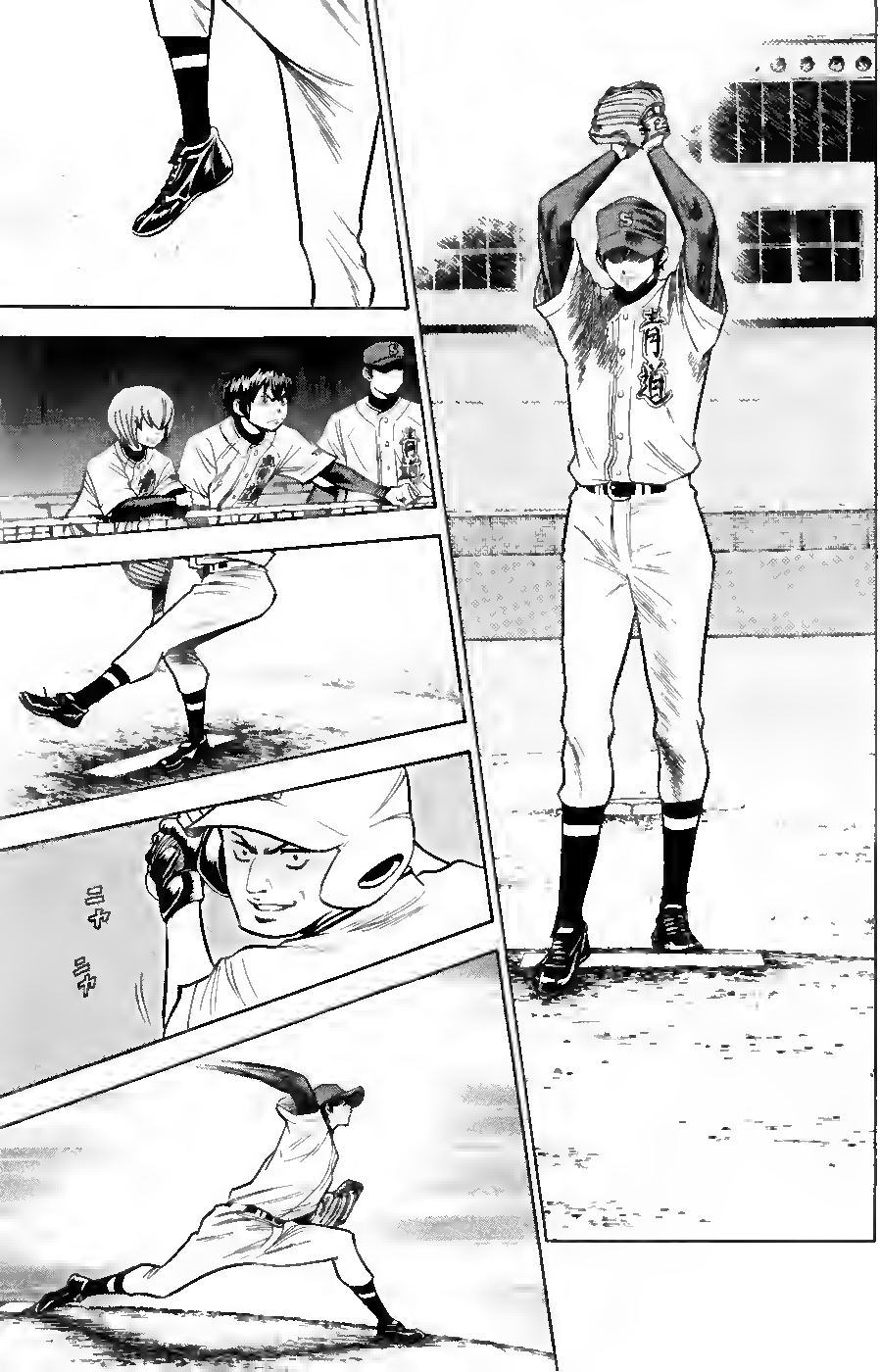
LET'S STRIKE OUT ALL THREE BATTERS. WHAT YOU SAY?
SENPAI,
THAT WAS MY INTENTION FROM THE START.

THAT WAS MY INTENTION
FROM THE START...
I ONLY TOLD HIM TO GO FOR THREE STRIKE TO LIFT HIS NERVOUSNESS...
GEEZ
AT ALL—
HE HASN'T CHANGED.
ダイヤのA

CHAPTER 64/
THAT BOY'S GOT A STRONG ARM

IT'S THE ALL IMPORTANT FIRST GAME, ISN'T IT? THEY'RE ALREADY GAMBLING WHEN IT'S GAME OVER IF THEY LOSE?!
THAT PITCHER IS A FIRST-YEAR!
WHERE'S THE ACE, TANBA?
ガン ガン
THAT FIRST-YEAR IS A TOTAL WRECK FROM NERVOUSNESS.
FUAHAHAHA!! HE CAN'T EVEN CATCH THE BALL PROPERLY!!
MAIMON
ボール
ボン
HE MIGHT BREAK DOWN AND NOT GET A SINGLE STRIKE...
ボッ
ONLY GO FOR WEAK PITCHES.

PLAY!
FOR STAYING SO CLOSE TO THE BASE...
DON'T BLAME ME LATER
OKAY!
NOW THEN... FURUYA'S FIRST PITCH..
WILL IT BE GOOD OR BAD?
トーン
トーン


青道
ニヤ
ニヤ

KYO

STRIKE!!

UWAAA! WHAT WAS THAT PITCH JUST NOW!?
DID YOU HEAR THAT SOUND!?
YOU HEARD IT, RIGHT?
THAT WAS A PITCH FROM A FIRST-YEAR!?
HOW FAST WAS THAT? WHERE'S THE DAMN SPEED GUN!?

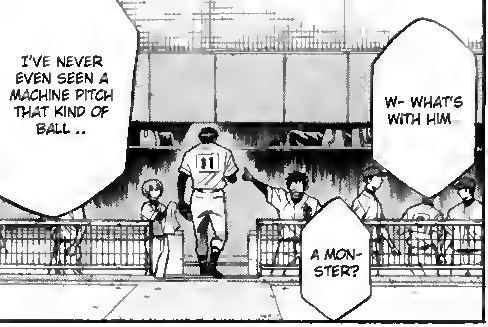
NOT EVEN A MACHINE PITCHES LIKE THAT..
WHAT WAS THAT...
WHY WOULD YOU GO AFTER SUCH A HIGH PITCH
IDIOT
MAJOR
IS SCARY ....
ST- STANDING IN THE BATTER BOX
LIKE I TOLD YOU, DON'T GO AFTER...

...SUCH A BAAAAALL!!
TOKYO

11
LOOK! THE OPPONENT IS SHOCKED.
FULL THROTTLE FROM THE BEGINNING, HUH...?
H- HE DID IT! THREE CONTINUOUS STRIKE-OUTS!!

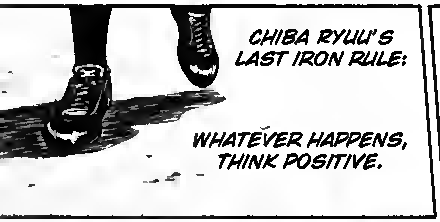
WELL DONE, FURUYA!!
Most were balls though
NICE!
NICE PITCH-ING!
THE COACH'S WORDS WORKED ON HIM?
COULD IT BE
HAHA HE'S FAR FROM BEING NERVOUS. ACTUALLY HE'S EVEN MORE SPIRITED THAN USUAL.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE KAWAKAMI COVER YOUR BACK?
FURUYA...
?
JUST DO WHAT YOU CAN.
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE STARTING PITCHER DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING.

THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD BE PROUD AND PITCH TO YOUR FULLEST—
YOU HAVE A POWER THAT LET'S PEOPLE ENTRUST YOU WITH THE ALL IMPORTANT FIRST GAME.
EVEN IF IT WORKED TODAY, DON'T THINK IT'LL ALWAYS WORK
I DON'T MIND BEING SPIRITED, BUT HIS PITCHES ARE TOO HIGH...
YOU HAVE THE POWER— YOU HAVE THE POWER— YOU HAVE THE POWER— YOU HAVE THE POWER— YOU HAVE THE POWER—
DON'T DAY-DREAM!
20
19


I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A MACHINE PITCH THAT KIND OF BALL..
W- WHAT'S WITH HIM
A MON-STER?

MAIMON
TOKYO

Y- YES!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!? GET INTO DEFENCE ALREADY!!
TOKYO


CHIBA RYUU'S LAST IRON RULE:
WHATEVER HAPPENS, THINK POSITIVE.

WE JUST HAVE TO SWITCH PLANS!!
IF WE PUT UP A STRONG DEFENCE, WE'LL SURELY GET OUR CHANCE—
MAIMON

A MAN

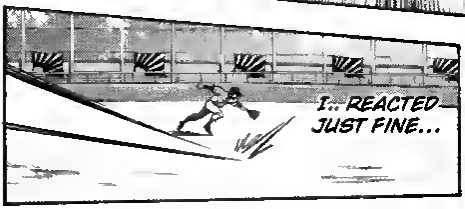
HAS HIS
OWN WORLD

FALLING STAR
A STRAIGHT
FLYING THROUGH THE SKY
FOR EXAMPLE
青道
TOKYO
YUUKI
BLOW IT AWAY, YUUKI~
YUUKI

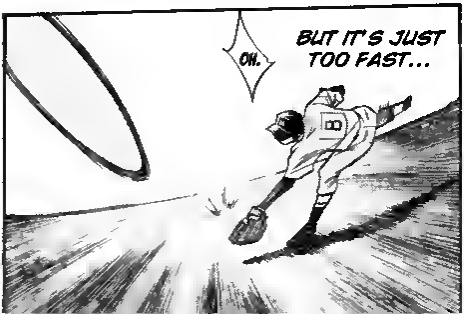
THEY WANT TO BATTLE THE RIGHT-HANDED BATTER IN THE OUTSIDE TRACK?
NO, RATHER IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE AVOIDING A BATTLE.
THE SHORTSTOP MOVED CLOSER TO SECOND BASE.
WHAT AN EXTREME LEFT SHIFT.
GUYS, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YUUKI'S BATTING
EH?
IN THE WORST CASE, WE CAN WALK THIS BATTER...
JUST KEEP PITCHING TO DODGY POINTS.
TOKYO
3

BALL!!
KUH
HIS WAITING PISSES ME OFF—
SHIT.. A BIT TOO INSIDE...

4


I.. REACTED JUST FINE...

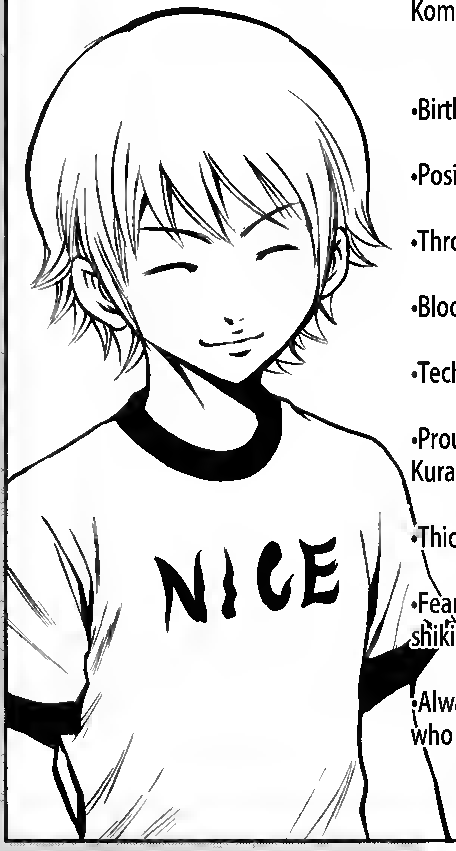
ぶわっ
4


OH.
BUT IT'S JUST TOO FAST...
8

A POWERFUL HIT AIMING AT THE GAP OF THE LEFT SHIFT!!
IT SLIPPED INTO THE OUTER FIELD.
WE DON'T NEED BIG HITS.
SLIP BY THEIR DEFENCE WITH STRONG AND LOW HITS!!
YIIAY! SEIDOU'S FIRST HIT!
NICE BATTING, TETSU!!
TETSU-SAMAA!!

SEIDOU PLAYER CHART

Vol.12



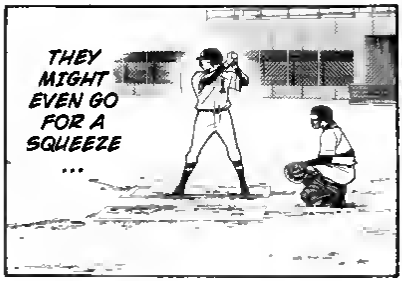
Kominato Ryousuke (3rd year)

- Birth place Kanagawa Prefecture
- Position: 2nd baseman
- Throws with the right, bats with left
- Blood type B
- Technique player
- Proud of his perfect defense for Kuramachi
- Thick-headed and a loose tongue
- Feared by the juniors more than Isashiki
- Always protected his little brother, who was teased, in the past

SBO
HEFC
プルッ
MAI NON
TOKYO
ダイヤのA
エース

WITH THAT, IT'S NO OUTS AND A RUNNER ON FIRST AND THIRD!!
So good!
YEAH!! ANOTHER HIT!!

CHAPTER 65/ APPEAL TIME


THEY MIGHT EVEN GO FOR A SQUEEZE ...

I THOUGHT I COULD LEAD THEM ON A BIT MORE, BUT THEY'RE MAKING GOOD CONTACT...
DAMN...

ドゥ

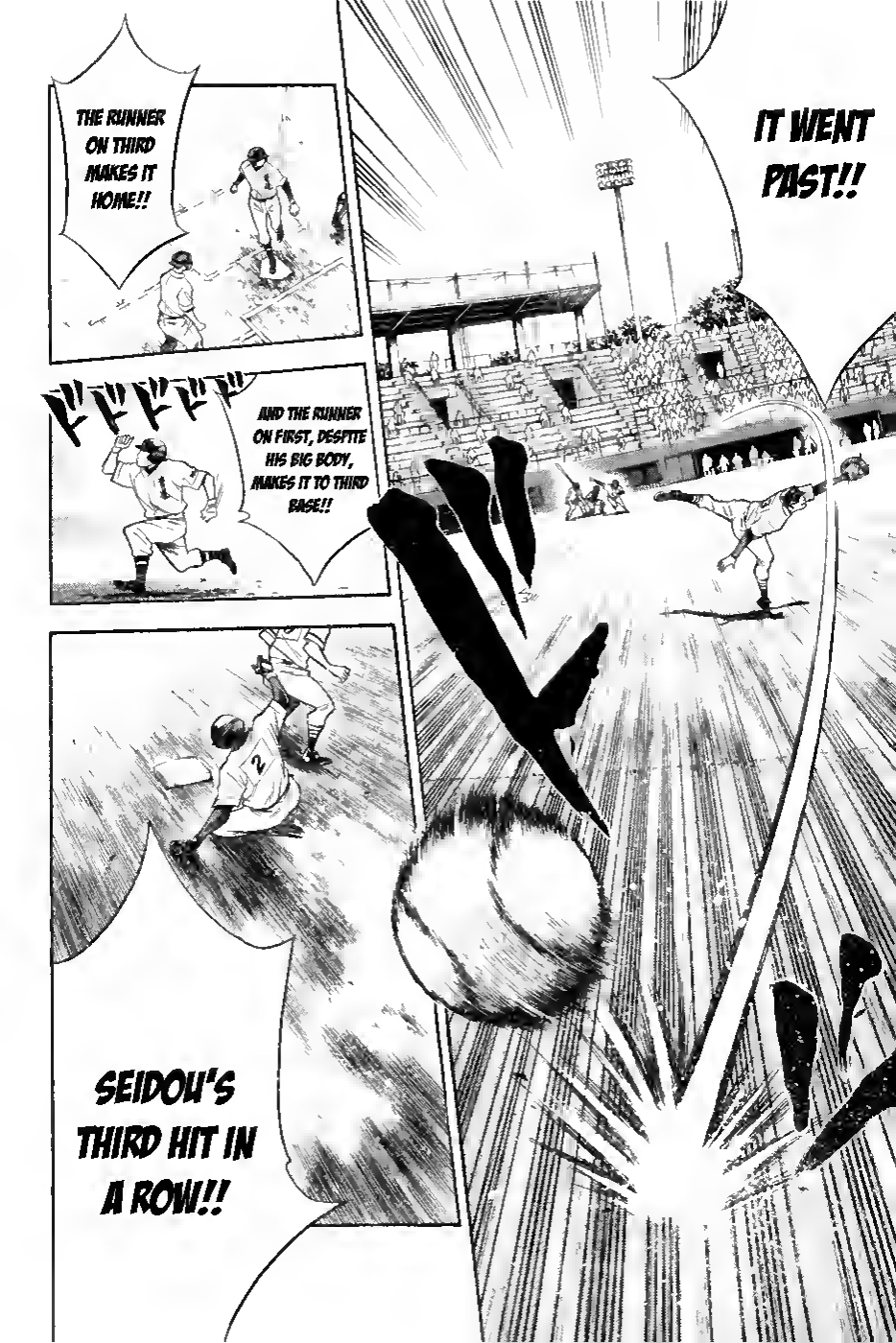
ドゥドゥドゥドゥ
SHOOT- PRECISE-
2

ドゥ
2
ドゥ

3
EVEN IF THEY SQUEEZE, IT'LL BE ON THE INSIDE TRACK ANYWAY, KEEP IT LOW
FOR NOW, LET'S GO WITH A BREAKING BALL FOR THE FIRST
TOKYO
ドッ
ドッ
ズッ
ズッ

EH!?
HE WENT FOR THE FIRST PITCH—
FOR SUCH A LOW BALL!?

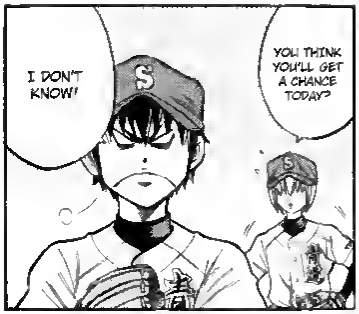
TOKYO


THE RUNNER ON THIRD MAKES IT HOME!!
AND THE RUNNER ON FIRST, DESPITE HIS BIG BODY, MAKES IT TO THIRD BASE!!
IT WENT PAST!!
SEIDOU'S THIRD HIT IN A ROW!!

WHAT'S WITH THEM ...
DAMN, HE'S HOGGING ALL THE GOOD SPOTS FOR HIMSELF.
BUT HE'S RELIABLE, SO HE'LL FORGIVE HIM!!
THE ONE I SWUNG OUT ON...
THE BASTARD WAS WAITING FOR THAT PITCH.
ARE THEY A TEAM WITH HARD HITTERS?
EH!?
A SQUEEZE ON THE FIRST PITCH—

T-TO FIRST BASE!!
NICE BUNT, SHIRASU-SENPAI!!
WHAAA
YEAH, 2ND POINT!!
WHAT'S MORE, MASUKO-SENPAI IS UNEXPECTEDLY FAST!!

WOW~~~ ALL OUR RUNNERS KEEP GETTING HOME


I DON'T KNOW!
YOU THINK YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TODAY?

EH?
I CAN'T STAY STILL!!
HARUCCHI, THROW A FEW BALLS WITH ME!!

SUD-DENLY?
BUT TODAY'S HOT. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN FURUYA MIGHT SUDDENLY FAINT.

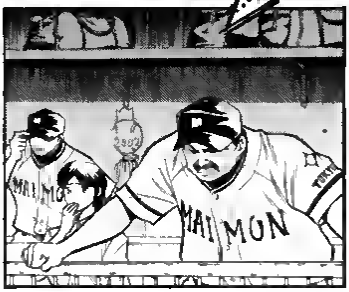
WHAT POSITIVE THINKING...

IN ANY CASE, THEY WON'T GET ANGRY JUST BE-CAUSE I STARTED WARMING UP.

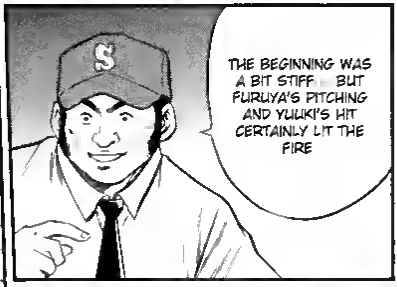
I SHOULD LEARN FROM HIM...
MAIMON

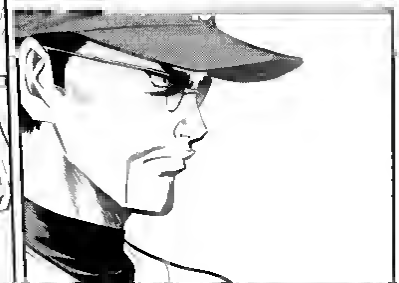
TOKYO

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
青道 0 3 0 2
米門 0 0 0


MAIMON

THE OPPONENT'S BATTER DIDN'T GET THE TIMING RIGHT FOR FURUYA'S PITCHING EITHER.
IF WE GET A TEN POINT DIFFERENCE BY THE 5TH INNING, IT'S A CALLED GAME.
FURUYA MIGHT GET TO PITCH UNTIL THE END.


THE BEGINNING WAS A BIT STIFF... BUT FURUYA'S PITCHING AND YUUKI'S HIT CERTAINLY LIT THE FIRE

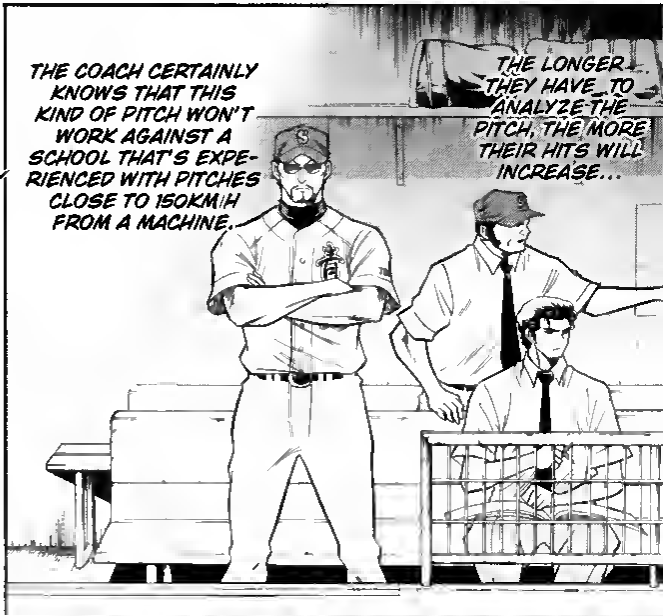


Y-
YES!
2

TELL KAWAKAMI TO BE READY ANY TIME.
NO... EVEN IF IT'S GOING TO BE A SHORT GAME, THIS SUMMER WE'RE PLAYING WITH A RESERVE PITCHER.

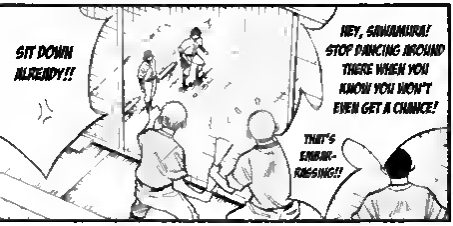
THEY'RE MISSING FURUYA'S PITCHES BECAUSE OF THEIR HEIGHT...

110
P
TOKYO

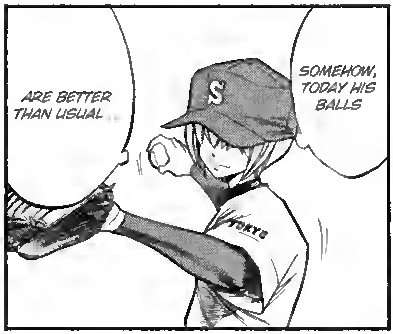

THE COACH CERTAINLY KNOWS THAT THIS KIND OF PITCH WON'T WORK AGAINST A SCHOOL THAT'S EXPERIENCED WITH PITCHES CLOSE TO 150KM/H FROM A MACHINE.
THE LONGER THEY HAVE TO ANALYZE THE PITCH, THE MORE THEIR HITS WILL INCREASE...

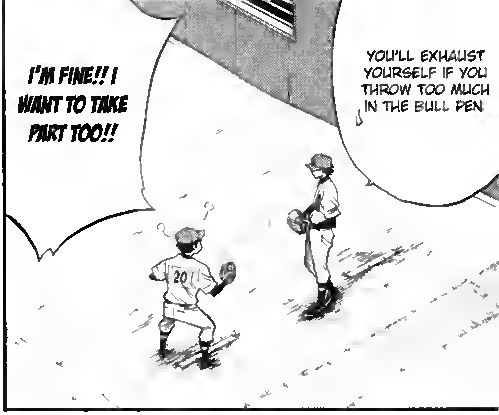
I'LL ONLY BE IN SUCH GOOD CONDITION ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS!!
WAAHAHAHA. I'M IN TOP FORM～～!!
THE OLYMPICS? That's just useless
19

I'M READY WHENEVER, YOU KNOW～～

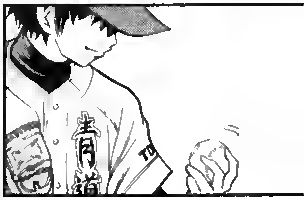

SIT DOWN ALREADY!!
HEY, SAWAMURA! STOP DANCING AROUND THERE WHEN YOU KNOW YOU WON'T EVEN GET A CHANCE!
THAT'S EMBARRASING!!

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN APPEALING FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW...
SORRY.


SOMEHOW, TODAY HIS BALLS
ARE BETTER THAN USUAL


I'M FINE!! I WANT TO TAKE PART TOO!!
YOU'LL EXHAUST YOURSELF IF YOU THROW TOO MUCH IN THE BULL PEN.

EH?
LOOKS LIKE "THIS" WILL BE THE LAST THING I CAN TEACH YOU.



THIS IS THEIR LAST TOURNAMENT...
FOR THE THIRD-YEARS
I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT BACK THEN, BUT
NOW...
IF WE LOSE
IT'S ALL OVER FOR THEM...
Mh?
SAWAMURA~ THE COACH IS CALLING FOR YOU!!
JUST WHEN I WAS BUSY THROWING
GEH.

FOR REAL!?

EH?
YOU'RE UP NEXT INNING, SAWAMURA!!

YOU'RE READY, AREN'T YOU?
THEN GET GOING!!

Y-
YES!!

CHAPTER 66/ OFFICIAL GAME DEBUT

15 POINTS DIFFERENCE AFTER 4 INNINGS....
SEIDOU ALREADY SWITCHED THEIR PITCHER..
FUCHU
A SOUTH-PAW, ALSO A FIRST-YEAR.
WITH A SCORE LIKE THAT, I DON'T THINK TANBA THE ACE WILL GET AN APPEARANCE

ANY MORE AND I'LL KILL YOU!!
くわわ
2 POINTS ARE ALLOWED!!
BE CALM!!
LIGG! Give your best
YOU DON'T NEED TO SMILE.
I'LL LET THEM HIT PLENTY, SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT!!
しやす
YES!
WELL... WITH OUR SCORE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT.
HIS PITCHES HAVE THE USUAL SHARPNESS.
YOU SAY SOMETHING TOO!

THE COACH REALLY PLANS TO LET THE PITCHERS GROW IN MATCH SITUATIONS.
BUT... I NEVER THOUGHT SAWAMURA WOULD GET A CHANCE HERE.
WILL IT BE ALRIGHT?
JUST CONCENTRATE ON YOUR OWN SWING!!
PUT IN YOUR THREE YEARS OF EFFORT!!
COACH...
KASUKUMA~ HIT IT HARD~

WHO JUST THINKS ABOUT WINNING THE NEXT GAME AND ONE THAT AIMS FOR THE KOUSHIEN.
SO... THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH BETWEEN A-TEAM
HIT IT～～ HASHIMIJIMA ～～～
YOU CAN DEFINITELY HIT IT!!
HIT IT～～
IT WAS ME, WHO UNDERESTIMATE THE OPPONENT—
THEY DON'T HAVE A SINGLE FLAW.
HASHIMIJIMA～～ HIT IT～～
GO FOR THE FIRST PITCH!!

SHOW THEM THE SPIRIT OF OUR SCHOOL!!
LET'S GET AT LEAST ONE POINT!!
20
KUSUNOME, HIT IT~~
ARE THE SAME FOR EACH SCHOOL...
I GUESS THE FEELINGS OF THE THIRD-YEARS TOWARDS THEIR LAST TOURNAMENT
WHAT AMAZING ENCOURAGEMENT.
青道

20
BRING IT ON!!
THIS IS THE SUMMER. THE REAL DEAL.
SAWA-MURA.
DON'T GET SUCKED IN...
7

AH.
ARG
GUH, IT HURTS
BUT, SO LUCKY...
SORRY, TIME OUT PLEASE
HE'S SHAKING LIKE CRAZY FROM NERVOUSNESS.
すいません
YEAH. OUR FIRST RUNNER ON A BASE!!
THAT PITCHER IS NOTHING SPECIAL.

OWW!
むっ
DON'T KICK ME ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
WANNA GIVE HIM ANOTHER?
DO IT SOME-WHERE BETTER HIDDEN
YOU WANT ME OFF THE MOUND!?
TOKYO
20
I'M NOT GOING DOWN!!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US FROM THIS PINCH!!
YOU'RE ONE TO SAY....
PINCH?
WHAT'S THAT?...HE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

THE PITCH IS FLYING ALRIGHT. NO NEED TO BE SO WORRIED.
JUST... YOU'RE PUTTING IN TOO MUCH STRENGTH.

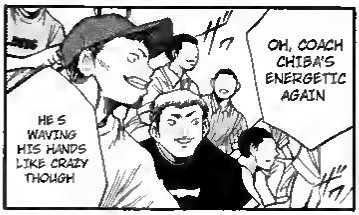
KAWAKAMI!! WE NEED TO CALL KAWAKAMI.
HEY.. COACH.

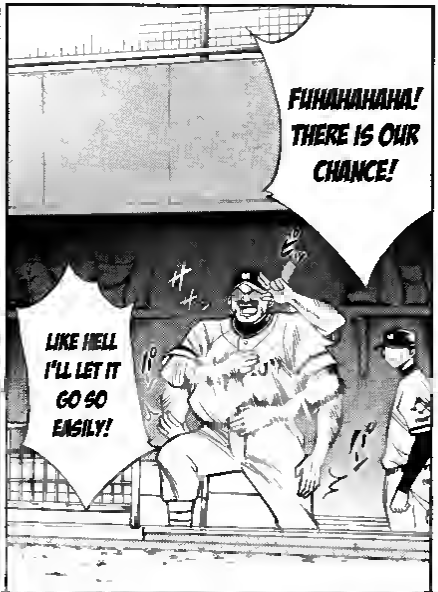
AND JUST LOOK AT MY MITT.
STOP THINKING ABOUT USE-LESS STUFF

LETTING IT BE HIT AND THEN FIELD-ING IS YOUR STYLE!!

THEN I'M LETTING THEM HIT THEM ALL, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT, EVERY-ONE!!
NO CHIT-CHAT.
WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU GET A SPARRING.
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE TOO PUMPED UP ...

H- HOW EMBAR-RASSING...


OH, COACH CHIBA'S ENERGETIC AGAIN
HE'S WAVING HIS HANDS LIKE CRAZY THOUGH


FUHAHAHAHA! THERE IS OUR CHANCE!
LIKE HELL I'LL LET IT GO SO EASILY!

MAIMON

SAY WHAT YOU WANT.
MAKING USE OF A CHANCE AND TAKING ONE POINT.. THAT'S OUR STYLE.
WITH A POINT DIFFERENCE THIS BIG, GO FOR SOME HITS.
EH, A BUNT.
TAKE ONE POINT—
WE'LL DEFINITELY

UHH
OR DEFEAT.
VICTORY
NOT ONLY HAVE I BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE MOUND—
WE'RE FIGHTING AT A PLACE LIKE THAT.

HUH!?
SOMEHOW, HIS FORM ...
HIS ARM IS SO SLOW...
THERE'S ALSO NO WAY I WOULD LOSE IN SPIRIT.

!?
SO FAST...

I- IT HIT THE GROUND~
SAWAMURA, BALL TO SECOND BASE!!
BUT THE BALL'S POWER ISN'T GONE YET.
FOR LONGER, EVEN JUST FOR ONE GAME.
I WANT TO FIGHT
TO-GETHER WITH THE SENIORS

20
TOKYO
TOGETHER
WITH THEM

OHHHHHH
I TOO...
...WANT TO GET STRONGER
青道
THE FIRST-YEAR BOY HOWLED～～
IS- ISN'T HE NERVOUS?
HIS FIELDING WAS GREAT.

YEAH
YEAH
YEEAAHH
HOW LONG DOES HE PLAN ON SHOUTING?
SOMEONE STOP HIM
YEAH
DON'T WORRY... HE'S CALM...
HE COULD EVEN CONFUSE THE RUNNER
GOING WITH HIS FEELINGS IS JUST LIKE HIM....
TWO OUT~~

ーSTAFFー

栗栖正義

山田聡子

米澤孝知

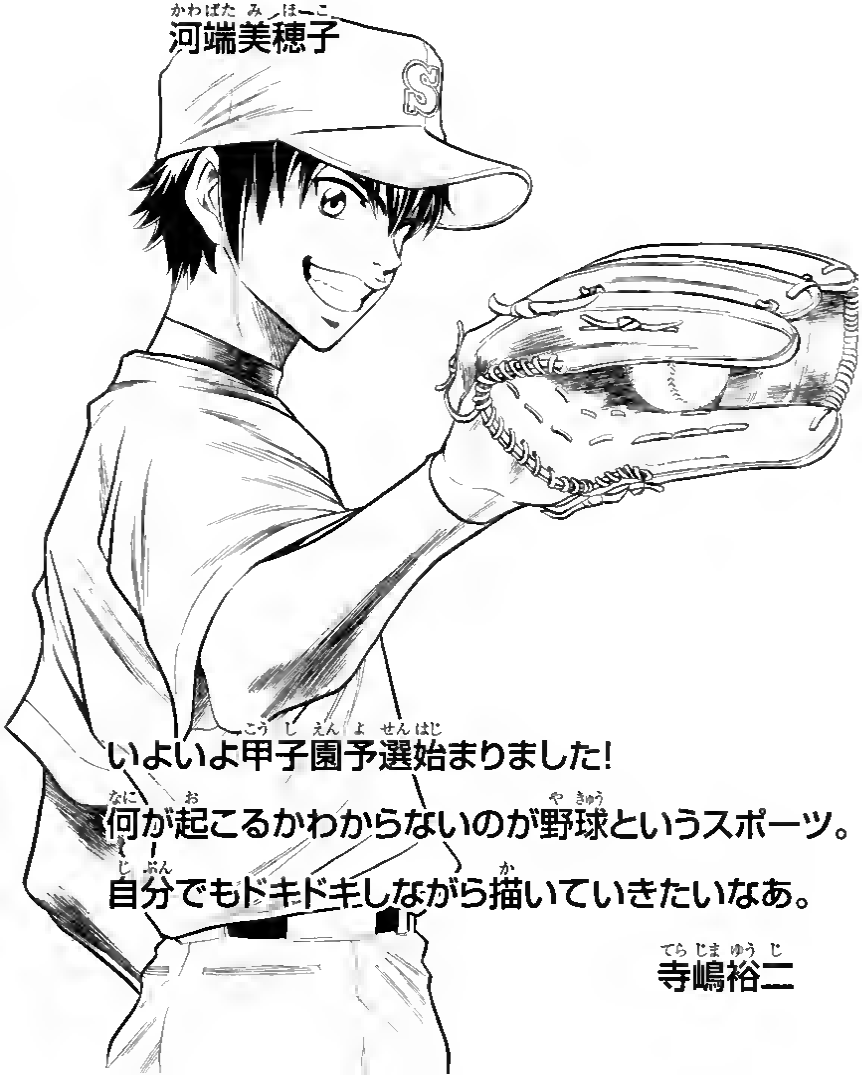
河端美穂子

ーEDITORー

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA

MASAKATSU MINO

SHUJI SATO



いよいよ甲子園予選始まりました!

何が起こるかわからないのが野球というスポーツ。

自分でもドキドキしながら描いていきたいなあ。

寺嶋裕二